

PART TWO OF THE  
DRINKING WATER BOARD  
PACKET  
FOR  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2007



DRINKING WATER BOARD  
PACKET

SEPTEMBER 14, 2007

WEST JORDAN, UTAH



AGENDA

FOR THE  
DRINKING WATER BOARD  
MEETING

ON  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2007



9. Directors Report
  - a) DDW's Source Protection Grant Application
  - b) A 40 Acre Subdivision South of Mona
  - c) New Staff
10. News Articles
11. Central Iron County Water Conservancy District's  
Tour Book from the July 13, 2007 Board Meeting – Copy Attached
12. Next Board Meeting:  
Date: October 12, 2007  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Work Meeting: 168 North 1950 West, Room 101  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114  
  
Break for Lunch  
  
Time: 1:00 p.m.  
Board Meeting: 168 North 1950 West, Room 101  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
13. Other
14. Adjourn

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act, individuals with special needs (including auxiliary Communicative aids and services) should contact Jennifer Burge, Office of Human Resources at: (801) 536-4413, TDD (801) 536-4424, at least five working days prior to the scheduled meeting.





State of Utah

Department of  
Environmental Quality

Richard W. Sprott  
*Executive Director*

DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER  
Kenneth H. Bousfield, P.E.  
*Director*

**Drinking Water Board**  
Anne Erickson, *Chair*  
Myron Bateman, *Vice-Chair*  
Ken Bassett  
Daniel Fleming  
Jay Franson, P.E.  
Helen Graber, Ph.D.  
Paul Hansen, P.E.  
Petra Rust  
Richard Sprott  
David Stevens, Ph.D.  
Ron Thompson  
Kenneth H. Bousfield, P.E.  
*Executive Secretary*

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.  
*Governor*

GARY HERBERT  
*Lieutenant Governor*

**DRINKING WATER BOARD  
MEETING**

September 14, 2007  
1:00 p.m.

Place: Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District  
8215 South 1300 West  
West Jordan, Utah  
Ken Bousfield's Cell Phone #: (801) 674-2557

1. Call to Order – Chairman Erickson
2. Roll Call – Ken Bousfield
3. Introductions – Chairman Erickson
4. Approval of Minutes – July 13, 2007 and  
– August 2, 2007
5. SRF/Conservation Committee Report – Vice Chairman Myron Bateman
  - 1) Status Report – Ken Wilde
  - 2) SRF Applications
    - a) Emergency Funding Deauthorization
    - b) Town of Paragonah – Planning Loan
    - c) Whispering Pines Water Company
    - d) Snowville Water Works
    - e) Bear River Water Conservancy District
6. Rule R309-352 – Non Substantive Rule Reference Change – Steve Onysko
7. Rule Revisions: R309-700 and R309-705 – Ken Wilde
8. Chairman's Report – Chairman Erickson



AGENDA ITEM 10

NEWS ARTICLES



# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Diarrhea outbreak

### Water play places are shut down

Popular Liberty Park, Library Square facilities are affected

**By Cathy McKittrick**

**The Salt Lake Tribune**

**Salt Lake Tribune**

Article Last Updated:08/30/2007 02:28:34 AM MDT

While hot weather continues as summer slowly starts to fade, four popular water features in Salt Lake City's Liberty Park and Library Square have shut down early due to health concerns.

Pools in eight of the state's counties are off-limits to children under age 5 due to a diarrhea outbreak caused by cryptosporidium, or "crypto."

To be safe, Salt Lake City officials decided to close the Seven Canyons Fountain and Rotary Play Park water feature in Liberty Park, and the Wedge Fountain and Gift of Life Donor Fountain at Library Square.

According to a statement issued Wednesday, these four features lack treatment equipment to comply with the state Health Department's recommended levels of chlorination needed to combat the parasite.

"Drinking water that contains this organism can cause disease," said Florence Reynolds, water-quality-treatment manager of Salt Lake City's Public Utilities.

"It is certainly prudent to discontinue operating these water features, where so many children congregate, when they may be exposed to an organism that can make them sick."

Meanwhile, The Gateway fountain on downtown's west edge - a favorite spot for kids to cool down on hot summer days - began hyper-chlorinating a few weeks ago at the direction of state health officials.

"Our feature has been down since Monday for routine maintenance" - an annual process that takes nearly four weeks, said Tracy James, assistant vice president for Inland Southwest Management, the company that owns The Gateway's retail buildings.

James expects that process to finish and the fountain to flow again by Sept. 24.

Meanwhile, swimming pools throughout the area will remain open, but are off-limits to kids under 5 until the crypto scare has passed.

*cmckitrick@sclerectomy*

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Water project completion means increased flows, future reliability

The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated: 08/29/2007 01:08:03 AM MDT

Calling it their most significant water project in half a century, Metropolitan Water District officials have announced the completion of a \$250 million redundancy system that will ensure drinking water delivery for residents from Salt Lake City to Sandy and beyond.

The project, which took eight years to plan and three years of work, will increase flows by 70 million gallons a day - water that can be treated and delivered to more than 500,000 customers.

The effort includes pipelines that stretch from the Provo Reservoir Canal to a water treatment plant at Point of the Mountain, and a connection to Little Cottonwood Creek to transport spring runoff to southern and western areas of the Salt Lake Valley. The pipeline connects all the major water systems in the valley and provides a backup to the Salt Lake Aqueduct, a 66-year-old pipeline positioned along the Wasatch Fault. It also helps ensure reliability and flexibility in case of a natural disaster or to conduct maintenance work on aging systems, officials note.

"This project reflects the dedication, foresight, ingenuity and hard work of thousands of people," said Mike Wilson, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy. "As President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said at the dedication of the Hoover Dam, 'This represents the accumulated engineering knowledge and experience of centuries . . . but especially, we express our gratitude to the . . . workers who gave brain and brawn to this great work of construction.' " LeRoy Hooton, Salt Lake City's public-utilities director, says the metro water project also is critical for Utah's capital.

- Derek P. Jensen

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## Water shortage gets reprieve

Geoff Liesik  
NEOLA SPRING BROUGHT ONLINE

The Neola Water and Sewer Improvement District has received the OK to bring water from a free flowing spring into its culinary water storage tank, easing the amount of water the small town north of Roosevelt will need to purchase from its southern neighbor.

Use of the spring is good news for Roosevelt officials who had feared a severe water shortage might force them to terminate their contract and stop selling water to Neola.

"We're asking people to continue to conserve water at least throughout the month of August, but we're no longer considering that there might be a need to discontinue service to Neola," said Roosevelt City Manager Brad Hancock.

The Roosevelt City Council has asked all water users to reduce their outside watering to once a week. Mayor Russ Cowan said the need for the rationing will be re-evaluated by the city in September.

According to Neola Water District President Rick Stewart, the spring water recently tested positive three times for significant levels of bacteria. A temporary chlorinator was installed at the site, to treat the water and the district was issued an emergency permit from the Utah Division of Drinking Water to add the spring into the system.

The permit is valid for 120 days. Officials began diverting the spring water into the storage tank two weeks ago.

Scott Hacking, district engineer with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality for the tri-county area, said improvements will need to be made before the spring can become a permanent water source.

"It's going to be relatively heavily chlorinated and they can't do this for more than 120 days," Hacking said. "This is just a quick fix to get them by."

The move to develop the Neola spring came after a July meeting between officials with Roosevelt City and Neola Water. The meeting was the result of a letter from the city explaining that it was considering "any and all options" to address the drought, including the possibility of terminating Neola's 20-year-old contract for culinary water.

During the meeting, Neola Water officials suggested developing the spring as a means of adding more water to Roosevelt's system. Hacking, who was in attendance at the meeting, said he would work with the parties to help get the water flowing, at least temporarily.

Permanent use of the newly tapped water source will require some additional work. According to Stewart, state code dictates that the top 100 feet of a spring must be sealed off, to prevent contamination from surface water. The spring, however, is only 70 feet deep, Stewart said.

Hacking said the district will likely need to obtain funding from the state Drinking Water Board to finance the needed improvements.

The spring produces 150 gallons of water per minute, which is enough to supply 150 homes, according to Neola Water District Clerk Myron Duncan. The district serves 220 homes; contractually it can purchase up to 50 million gallons of water per year from Roosevelt but has exceeded that limit this past year.

"From here on out we won't have to buy nearly as much water from Roosevelt as we have in the past," Duncan said.

Use of water from the spring will have no effect on water-users' monthly bills; however, Roosevelt City officials are awaiting the results of a study on user and impact fees and have warned Neola Water officials that rates could go up.



# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Pelicans welcome: Lake mineral operation should defer to birds

Tribune Editorial  
Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated: 08/27/2007 07:11:11 PM MDT

The American white pelican is a gorgeous, fascinating - and enormous - bird. Its wingspan is 8 to 9 1/2 feet, and it is nearly 5 feet long. Its large, curved beak can hold three gallons of water. When it spreads its wings and tucks in its orange webbed feet to take flight, it is breathtaking.

We in Utah are fortunate to host these magnificent birds during nesting season. Their ground-level nests of sticks, grasses and reeds are vulnerable to attack, however. That is why Gunnison Island in the Great Salt Lake is an ideal spot for them, and for California gulls and peregrine falcons. It is isolated from humans and other predators.

But that could all change if Great Salt Lake Minerals is allowed to expand its potassium sulfate mining operation on 36 square miles of the lake's west end. The company would build dikes and drying ponds to within two miles of Gunnison Island, bringing with it a real threat to the birds' vital solitude.

In granting a lease for the expansion, the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands is sacrificing some of Utah's precious natural wildlife resources so that one commercial enterprise can thrive. That goes against Utah law that requires the division to protect fish and wildlife habitat, the lake's vistas, public recreation and water quality, while allowing limited extraction of the lake's minerals.

Fourteen environmental groups are rightly appealing the division's decision. And they are not the only ones concerned. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are worried about the expansion's potential effects on all the 5 million birds and 250 species that live in or around the lake.

The division says it has reviewed existing research and bird surveys of the lake's west shoreline and determined "there would not be a substantial impact to nesting populations of American white pelicans." Apparently, a federal environmental impact study will be done, but long after the division has agreed to the plan.

That's not good enough. No expansion should be allowed unless thorough scientific study shows *no* threat to the birds.

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Road to recovery

### Battling to save a unique species

Utah Lake recovery effort focuses on June sucker; humble fish has rich role in Utah history

**By Donald W. Meyers**  
**The Salt Lake Tribune**  
**Salt Lake Tribune**

Article Last Updated:08/28/2007 01:15:24 AM MDT

PROVO - They saved starving pioneers. They were fed to refugees. They were even used to pay Mormon tithing and Salt Lake City public-works employees.

"In a way," historian D. Robert Carter said, "the June suckers from Utah Lake helped build Salt Lake City."

On Monday, Utah officials made the latest installment on repaying that debt.

Department of Natural Resources workers introduced the first of 43,000 hatchery-bred suckers at Utah Lake State Park as part of a recovery plan to pull the species back from the brink of extinction.

But Reed Harris, recovery-program director, said there is more to this effort.

"We're not talking about saving fish," he said, "but saving an ecosystem."

The June sucker, which can reach 18 inches long and is indigenous only to Utah Lake, joined the endangered-species list in 1986, when its numbers fell below 1,000 after years of dumping sewage and habitat-harming carp into the lake.

Today, that population hovers at 10,000, boosted by past efforts to increase the suckers' ranks and decrease the carp count.

Kris Buelow, a coordinator for the recovery project and an employee of the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, said the June sucker's isolation in Utah Lake made it vulnerable to the invasive carp.

"Here the June sucker didn't have to compete," Buelow said.

But the carp seized on that and destroyed underwater vegetation, where the suckers would look for the small marine animals that make up their diet.

Buelow said diversifying the fish population - carp account for 90 percent of total weight of living creatures in the lake - will help balance the ecosystem.

The June suckers, raised from a breeding stock taken years ago from the lake, were brought down from Logan by truck in aerated tanks. They then were transferred to a boat, which dropped the 8-inch-long fish into the lake far from predators.

Officials hope the hatchery fish will breed with the wild population and build up the June suckers' numbers. The water conservancy district also is adjusting flows into the lake through the Provo River to aid sucker spawning in early summer.

Harris said eliminating sewage dumps has gone a long way toward making the lake more habitable for June suckers.

Another important battle in the effort is public relations. The June sucker is, to quite a few people, a garbage fish, hardly worth saving.

That wasn't always the case.

Carter, the Springville historian, argues June suckers played as vital a role in Utah history as California gulls.

The suckers once were an important foodstuff and commodity. They saved early settlers when crickets, drought and frost threatened crops. When Salt Lake City was evacuated during the Utah War of 1857-58, they helped feed the refugees.

In recent years, the recovery effort drew fire when repair work on a bridge in southwest Provo and an attempt to dredge part of Utah Lake to accommodate a triathlon were delayed because they would have interfered with the fish's mating activities.

However, Harris said, perceptions are changing, especially as Utahns realize the recovery not only saves the fish but the lake as well.

That is especially important, Buelow noted, for water users who rely on Utah Lake and its tributaries. The lake serves as a reservoir for water users in Utah and Salt Lake counties, and is the primary source of the Jordan River.

Then there are the carp - up to 8 million in the lake - that are exceptionally good at reproducing. Harris said the recovery project is formulating a plan to eliminate them from the lake. But it will take time.

[dmeyers@sltrib.com](mailto:dmeyers@sltrib.com)



# DESERET Morning News

## June suckers going into Utah Lake

*Officials say fish will help save ecosystem*

**By Jens Dana**

Deseret Morning News

*Published: August 28, 2007*

PROVO — More than 14,000 June suckers were released into Utah Lake on Monday, part of a plan to increase the endangered species population as well as to restore the lake habitat to its former health.

Ed Harris, a recovery programs director for the state Department of Natural Resources, said he understands most people wouldn't be upset over the absence of a "trash" fish in Utah Lake. But the June sucker population is an indicator of the health and vibrance of its environment, he said.

"As the lake has deteriorated over the years so has the June sucker population," he said. "The only way to get the lake back to any semblance of health is to increase the fish population."

Over the past century, the population of June suckers has steadily declined, Harris said, because people used Utah Lake as a dumping site for waste and also drained the water level. Eventually, the June sucker population dwindled to about 1,000, earning the fish a spot on the Endangered Species List in 1986.

The June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program, a multi-agency cooperative, this week will take a large step toward revitalizing the natural fish population.

By Wednesday, workers for the program will release 43,000 June suckers into Utah Lake. Harris said the fish they deposit this week will restore the sucker population to the estimated number in the early 1900s.

"Saving Utah Lake is worth any price," he said. "If we save this fish we save the ecosystem."

The recovery program also has started plans to restore the lake's natural habitat, Harris said. Researchers are studying methods to modify Provo River to recreate a delta that existed there previously. The delta would provide a wetland that's conducive to the young fish population.

"Fish don't have much of an opportunity to hide," he said. "That's one of the big problems with what's happened. The lake's been channelized."

The recovery program is also exploring means to decrease the number of carp in the lake. Kris Buelow, program coordinator for local recovery implementation, said the exotic species was introduced in the 1800s as a food source.

Now the intruders number 7.5 to 8 million and account for 90 percent of the biomass in the lake.



Decreasing the carp population will make room for a flourishing June sucker population. "We gotta get a new fish community," he said.

Buelow said the June sucker is unique among similar species. Not only is it unique to Utah Lake, it's mouth is positioned to the front of the snout instead of at the bottom.

"They're a beautiful fish," he said. "It's truly a Utah original."

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## Wetlands\_under\_continuing\_threat

by Sarah Miley

STAFF WRITER

Tooele County's wetlands, which perform many vital ecological functions, are being encroached upon at an unprecedented rate as more and more land is gobbled up for homes, according to environmentalists.

"Where the wetlands exist in Tooele County, there's a lot of pressure for development," said Jeff Salt, executive director of the Great Salt Lakekeeper, an environmental group that monitors issues facing wetlands and the Great Salt Lake. "Wetlands can't continue to provide their full value and function if they're carved up into pieces that are surrounded by development."

Salt said Tooele County is part of a statewide trend.

"We're losing wetlands at a pretty alarming rate in Utah," he said. "I've heard figures that we've lost half of our wetlands since the time of settlement by pioneers."

Most wetlands in Tooele County are located on the county's northern border near the Great Salt Lake. Those areas, once destroyed or degraded, are difficult to reclaim. Also, most wetland mitigation — creating new wetlands somewhere else in place of original wetlands — by developers isn't successful, Salt said, because there isn't adequate long-term management and monitoring after the mitigation is completed.

In 2002, in an effort to define specific areas where development could and could not occur in wetlands, a collection of federal, state, county and city representatives, as well as environmentalists and business leaders, banded together to form the Tooele Special Area Management Plan. The Tooele SAMP is in the process of developing a long-range plan to protect wetland areas. The group would like a blanket permit that would allow them to pre-determine acceptable uses for wetlands inside the rough boundaries of SR-138, SR-36 and I-80.

Salt, a member of the SAMP, said while it's been a long five-year process, the SAMP meeting set for this Thursday could be the last stakeholder meeting before a draft of the plan is formulated. Once that draft comes out, there will be a public comment period followed by the release of a final draft of the document.

Nicole Cline, Tooele County economic development advisor, said, "Hopefully it [the plan] will enhance the wetlands, and if nothing else bring wetland issues to the attention of people and prevent someone from going in and unknowingly causing damage."

Cline said any wetlands plan would eventually have to be approved by the county commission and would become part of the Tooele County General Plan. She also said there has been discussion that a SAMP committee may be formed to oversee the permitting process for future projects impacting wetlands.

Salt said the creation of the SAMP was due largely to the proposed Midvalley Highway, which is still being planned.

"The highway would cut right through the middle of the wetlands area," he said. "This is also problematic because it would just add more opportunity for urban sprawl. We need to think about growing up, not out. Right now, there are too many opportunities for small-time home builders to get in the game and make a quick buck."

Salt said at some point a line must be drawn or sprawl will take over.

"Who knows, Skull Valley may be the next sprawl area," he said. "Right now, it's not even on the horizon, but we didn't think the Tooele Valley would be such a fast-growing community 30 years ago either."

Education is key when it comes to wetlands, Salt said, adding wetland education is now part of the fourth-grade curriculum statewide.

"We have fourth-grade students learning more about wetlands than we have adults compromising that resource for future generations," he said. "But by the time those fourth-graders can control the political process, the wetlands will be so debilitated that there won't be much left in terms of wetland function for them to enjoy."

Salt said many people, including government officials, don't understand the importance of wetlands and how they contribute to the local economy.

Wetlands are the primary locations to go birdwatching and a variety of birds are found in the wetlands of Tooele County. Snowy plovers, ibis, herons,



Canada geese, ducks and avocets, as well as other birds like killdeer, meadowlarks and blackbirds can be found here.

"It'd be nice if we developed these wetlands into a tourist attraction and then developed a very managed way to attract tourists and guide them along boardwalks and let people enjoy a relationship with the wildlife by preserving the wetlands and enhancing them," Salt said.

Wetlands not only contribute to local economies, but they serve as flood control areas and filter polluted water.

"We can't just simply preserve the Great Salt Lake where the water ends, because the lake ecosystem depends not only where the shoreline of the lake is, but the wetlands that are on the margins around the lake," Salt said. "The value to the community that wildlife brings is hard for some people to appreciate, but there is value."

swest@tooeletranscript.com



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## Extra water could save creek

### Mountain Regional pitches in to help impaired Basin stream

Patrick Parkinson, Of the Record staff  
 The Park Record

Fish have perished in the past when irrigators have pumped too much water out of East Canyon Creek in the Snyderville Basin.

But one water company is giving back to the stream by putting their water into the creek.

"We have a well that we can't use for our culinary system," Mountain Regional Water Service District General Manager Andy Armstrong said.

The water contains too much organic material to drink, so, Armstrong says Summit County-owned Mountain Regional cooperates with the Snyderville Basin Water Reclamation District to put nearly two cubic feet per second of water into East Canyon Creek. "Which should go a long ways," Armstrong said.

"The news is, Mountain Regional to the rescue," Summit County Commissioner Sally Elliott said. "[We're] trying to save the fish East Canyon Creek."

East Canyon Creek, which flows north through the Snyderville Basin, begins near Park City Mountain Resort and drains into East Canyon reservoir in Morgan County.

Hundreds of fish have died when portions of East Canyon Creek have dried out. In August, the creek gets low as irrigators take from the stream to keep landscaping in bloom.

Officials aim to leave at least three cubic feet per second of water in the creek so aquatic life can survive.

Adding water to East Canyon Creek will not affect Mountain Regional's customers, Summit County Commissioner Bob Richer stressed, adding that "we have the luxury this year of having more than sufficient water supply."

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Utah is declared a disaster area for wildfires, drought

By Dawn House

The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated: 08/23/2007 11:29:01 PM MDT

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns on Thursday declared all of Utah's 29 counties disaster areas, qualifying farmers and ranchers coping with fires and drought for low-interest loans.

The secretary designated 24 counties as primary natural disaster areas. The state's remaining five counties - Daggett, Grand, Sevier, Wayne and Wasatch - have been declared contiguous disaster areas.

Once a county receives a natural or contiguous disaster designation, all farmers become eligible to apply to the USDA Farm Service Agency in their respective counties for emergency loans.

To receive a primary disaster declaration, a county must have incurred a production loss of at least 30 percent.

Contiguous areas must be surrounded by impacted counties.

"This is going to help some people get through this difficult time," said state Agriculture Commissioner Leonard Blackham. "There's also been some rains, especially in the southern part of the state, and that's been good, too."

In addition to record wildfires and severe drought, the 24 counties have suffered from insect infestations, killing frosts, hot dry winds and flash flooding, Johanns said in a letter to Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr.

Most ranchers said in a recent survey that they expected little help after record wildfires that have blackened more than 700,000 acres.

They reported destroyed water systems, fences and outbuildings, and problems with finding money to buy hay for thousands of displaced cattle.

The federal government "should help the people that depend upon agriculture, not help people that use agriculture for a tax write-off," one rancher in the survey, which was conducted by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

Another asked for feed "to take care of wildlife so landowners don't have to." And still another wrote, "Thanks for any help at all."

[dawn@sltrib.com](mailto:dawn@sltrib.com)

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## Great Salt Lake mineral extraction lease flayed

*Wilds groups say deal endangers ecosystem*

**By Joseph M. Dougherty**

Deseret Morning News

*Published: August 25, 2007*

A decision by the state to lease 23,088 acres of sovereign land near the Great Salt Lake for mineral extraction is facing an appeal by 14 environmental organizations.

Beginning Aug. 1, the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands agreed to lease the land for \$23,088 a year for 10 years to Great Salt Lake Minerals Inc., the largest producer of sulfate of potash, a fertilizer, in North America.

The company, which has been operating at the lake since 1970, also extracts other mineral salts from the lake.

Great Salt Lake Minerals currently operates a series of dikes and evaporation ponds on 21,000 acres on the west side of the Great Salt Lake and on 22,000 acres on the east side.

The environmental groups, which fall under the umbrella organization of FRIENDS of the Great Salt Lake, include the Audubon Council of Utah, Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters of Salt Lake, League of Women Voters of Utah, National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy of Utah, Utah Airboat Association, Utah Rivers Council and the Utah Waterfowl Association.

They say the state hasn't done enough to ensure that the ecosystem on the west side of the lake will be protected if Great Salt Lake Minerals gets a permit to operate.

If the environmental groups' appeal to stop the expansion is overturned, Great Salt Lake Minerals would next apply for a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which would conduct an environmental impact study.

David Becker, an attorney representing the groups, says there are very strong reasons to believe the leases shouldn't be granted.

"Our position is that not nearly enough analysis and care was taken before the state made the decision to issue these leases," Becker said Friday.

According to the appeal, the Utah Supreme Court has found that navigable waters should not be given without restriction to private parties and should be preserved for the general public for uses such as commerce, navigation and fishing.

That's the concept of a "public trust," the appeal states and argues that the economic benefit the state may receive from expanded operations of the mineral extraction doesn't fit with what are normally thought of as "public trust" values: navigation, fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic beauty, public recreation and water quality.

Dave Grierson, sovereign lands coordinator for the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, said his job is to balance "public trust"



impacts with economic impact.

"The public is not that impacted out there," he said, adding that the area is very seldom used by the public because of its remoteness.

"There's a substantial economic gain to the public as a whole by leasing that land," he said.

According to the record of decision approving the lease, Great Salt Lake Minerals estimated that royalties from its expanded business would generate at least \$2 million for Utah.

The record of decision also states that little, if any, bird use is known or observed and that recreation is virtually negligible.

But an April 28 letter from the Governor's Office of Public Lands Policy Coordination states that the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources had some misgivings about the lease.

DWR officials were concerned that construction of dikes two miles from Gunnison Island may disturb nesting birds.

The current dikes the minerals company operates in Clyman Bay are about four miles from the island, which is home to the third-largest breeding colony of American white pelicans in North America.

"Pelicans are known to be highly susceptible to any disturbance and will, at times, totally abandon nesting sites," the letter states.

The letter also says juvenile pelicans may get confused and become trapped in evaporation ponds and dikes may provide breeding grounds for California gulls, which could attack the pelicans.

Grierson said his division's employees went to the area and found that humans aren't likely to impact the pelicans' rookeries because they are more than two miles from potential dike construction.

Peggy Landon, spokeswoman for Great Salt Lake Minerals' parent company, Compass Minerals, said the company engaged in its own environmental studies before it applied for the lease.

"Our company is committed to operating in an environmentally responsible way," she said. The company is expecting a lengthy, thorough investigation by the Army Corps of Engineers.

But Becker said the state shouldn't leave the environmental decisions up to the federal government.

"The federal process cannot be a substitute for the obligation the state has under its own laws to make sure the Great Salt Lake is protected," he said.

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Environmental groups oppose lake decision

By Tom Wharton

The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated:08/24/2007 02:01:43 AM MDT

Fourteen Utah environmental organizations are appealing a recent decision that would allow a major expansion of potassium sulfate mining on the Great Salt Lake.

The groups contend that new dikes and drying ponds could hurt 5 million birds representing 250 species, as well as nesting birds that use the salty lake each year.

They have appealed a decision by the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands to give Great Salt Lake Minerals a 10-year lease on 36 square miles of land on the lake's west side. In the appeal filed with the state agency, the environmentalists allege that officials did only a cursory, inadequate study of potential impacts before approving the leases.

"Before approving leases and development plans and allowing them to move forward, the state needs to take a hard look and analyze what is going on," said David Becker, a lawyer representing the organizations, which include the Utah Audubon Council, Friends of the Great Salt Lake, Utah chapter of the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters, The Nature Conservancy of Utah, Utah Airboat Association, Utah Rivers Council and Utah Waterfowl Association.

Great Salt Lake Minerals has used dikes and drying ponds to harvest minerals from the Great Salt Lake since 1970. The approval allows it to expand its operation to an area the size of Salt Lake City, about 119 square miles, or 7 percent to 13 percent of the lake's surface depending on water-level cycles. The company says it has reached capacity amid growing demand for potassium sulfate.

Dave Grierson, sovereign lands coordinator for the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, said the appeal was not unexpected. He denied that the agency acted without sufficient information. It relied on existing research that included bird surveys on the lake's west shoreline, he said. The agency also received information from the Division of Wildlife Resources, a sister agency within the Utah Department of Natural Resources.

DWR director Jim Karpowitz said many of the issues of concern to wildlife interests would be addressed in a federal environmental impact statement by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Peggy Landon, a spokeswoman for Great Salt Lake Minerals, agreed, saying the state lease is only the first step in building the dikes, which she said would not hurt the lake environment.

"It is a lengthy process and a process that will give all interested parties a chance to be heard," she said. "The EIS study has not been initiated, and the [state] lease would not give us the authority to begin construction. It requires a permit and would include comprehensive environmental impact studies."

Becker, the attorney representing the environmental groups, said the federal study would come too late in the process.

"The state can't rely on a process it has no control over that will be done by the federal government at a later date," he said. "There are [state] statutes designed to protect the resources of the Great Salt Lake and make sure that the resources that belong to all of us are protected from being exploited by a single private entity for economic benefit."

The fate of American white pelicans on Gunnison Island is a top concern of the environmental groups.

The island's isolation from people and predators, they say, make it an ideal nesting area for the pelicans, as well as California gulls and peregrine falcons. The groups worry that having dikes moving to within two miles of the island could make it vulnerable to predators and human trespassers, particularly when the lake level is low.

The DWR also raised concerns about the pelicans on Gunnison Island in its report.

The state took the DWR's concern into consideration, but concluded there "would not be a substantial impact to nesting populations of American white pelicans," Grierson said.

"We looked at the impacts of both and, in our analysis, the north arm of the lake is so salty that wildlife use is pretty limited," he said.

In comments to the state, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also expressed concerns about the project and the cumulative impacts of all commercial



operations on the Great Salt Lake. It suggested that the leases be postponed until the state conducts more studies on the potential impacts.

Grierson said the appeal will be reviewed by the Department of National Resources. He expects at least one hearing to be conducted on the matter. After that decision, the next legal avenue for either Great Salt Lake Minerals or the environmental groups would be District Court.

\* TOM WHARTON can be contacted at wharton@sltrib.com. His phone number is 801-257-8909. Send comments about this story to livingeditor@sltrib.com.

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Environmental groups oppose lake decision

By Tom Wharton

The Salt Lake Tribune  
Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated: 08/24/2007 02:01:43 AM MDT

Fourteen Utah environmental organizations are appealing a recent decision that would allow a major expansion of potassium sulfate mining on the Great Salt Lake.

The groups contend that new dikes and drying ponds could hurt 5 million birds representing 250 species, as well as nesting birds that use the salty lake each year.

They have appealed a decision by the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands to give Great Salt Lake Minerals a 10-year lease on 36 square miles of land on the lake's west side. In the appeal filed with the state agency, the environmentalists allege that officials did only a cursory, inadequate study of potential impacts before approving the leases.

"Before approving leases and development plans and allowing them to move forward, the state needs to take a hard look and analyze what is going on," said David Becker, a lawyer representing the organizations, which include the Utah Audubon Council, Friends of the Great Salt Lake, Utah chapter of the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters, The Nature Conservancy of Utah, Utah Airboat Association, Utah Rivers Council and Utah Waterfowl Association.

Great Salt Lake Minerals has used dikes and drying ponds to harvest minerals from the Great Salt Lake since 1970. The approval allows it to expand its operation to an area the size of Salt Lake City, about 119 square miles, or 7 percent to 13 percent of the lake's surface depending on water-level cycles. The company says it has reached capacity amid growing demand for potassium sulfate.

Dave Grierson, sovereign lands coordinator for the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, said the appeal was not unexpected.

He denied that the agency acted without sufficient information. It relied on existing research that included bird surveys on the lake's west shoreline, he said. The agency also received information from the Division of Wildlife Resources, a sister agency within the Utah Department of Natural Resources.

DWR director Jim Karpowitz said many of the issues of concern to wildlife interests would be addressed in a federal environmental impact statement by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Peggy Landon, a spokeswoman for Great Salt Lake Minerals, agreed, saying the state lease is only the first step in building the dikes, which she said would not hurt the lake environment.

"It is a lengthy process and a process that will give all interested parties a chance to be heard," she said. "The EIS study has not been initiated, and the [state] lease would not give us the authority to begin construction. It requires a permit and would include comprehensive environmental impact studies."

Becker, the attorney representing the environmental groups, said the federal study would come too late in the process.

"The state can't rely on a process it has no control over that will be done by the federal government at a later date," he said. "There are [state] statutes designed to protect the resources of the Great Salt Lake and make sure that the resources that belong to all of us are protected from being exploited by a single private entity for economic benefit."

The fate of American white pelicans on Gunnison Island is a top concern of the environmental groups.

The island's isolation from people and predators, they say, make it an ideal nesting area for the pelicans, as well as California gulls and peregrine falcons. The groups worry that having dikes moving to within two miles of the island could make it vulnerable to predators and human trespassers, particularly when the lake level is low.

The DWR also raised concerns about the pelicans on Gunnison Island in its report.

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8/24/2007



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## 24 Utah counties get disaster status

*Action makes farmers, ranchers eligible for programs*

**By Joe Bauman**

Deseret Morning News

*Published: August 24, 2007*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated 24 Utah counties as natural disaster areas because of drought, wildfires and flash floods this year.

The declaration allows farmers and ranchers to apply for low-interest emergency loans and to take advantage of any disaster programs approved by Congress this year, according to a news release Thursday from Sen. Bob Bennett, R-Utah.

USDA Secretary Mike Johanns sent a letter Tuesday to Gov. Jon M. Huntsman Jr. saying the governor's request for the disaster-area designations had been granted for the 24 counties. Those counties are: Beaver, Box Elder, Cache, Carbon, Davis, Duchesne, Emery, Garfield, Iron, Juab, Kane, Millard, Morgan, Piute, Rich, Salt Lake, San Juan, Sanpete, Summit, Tooele, Uintah, Utah, Washington and Weber.

Huntsman had included Wasatch County in his disaster declaration of July 27 and had requested disaster assistance for it as well as the other counties, but Johanns said the department was "unable to confirm that sufficient production losses occurred in Wasatch County" for it to be designated a natural disaster area.

The letter says disasters that would make counties eligible for federal relief money could include severe drought, insect infestations, killing frosts, hot dry winds, below-normal runoff, wildfires and flash floods.

Bennett said he was pleased that Johanns had quickly responded to Huntsman's request for the disaster designations.

"Farmers and ranchers affected by the severe drought will now have access to low-interest emergency loans that will help cover losses inflicted during this period of record high temperatures," Bennett said.

Huntsman wrote to Johanns on July 27 to request the designation. The governor noted that Utah and several other states have repeatedly suffered extreme or exceptional drought conditions.

Many of the state's 29 counties were struck by "insect infestations, killing frosts, hot dry winds, low runoff and drought conditions and fires," Huntsman wrote. "Utah recently experienced the largest wildfire in its history." That blaze was the Milford Flat wildfire in Millard County, which scorched more than 363,000 acres this summer.

In addition, some areas have experienced flash flooding, and the "very low snowpack in our mountains," plus exceptionally dry soil, have resulted in poor runoff, the governor noted.

Huntsman said the U.S. Department of Agriculture's State Emergency Board estimates the resulting financial loss to Utah agriculture is

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nearly \$141 million.

According to the USDA's official Drought Monitor, nearly all of Utah is classified as experiencing severe drought. The exception is a narrow band along the Colorado border designated as having moderate drought.

Moderate drought means there is some damage to crops, pastures, streams, reservoirs and wells; water shortages are developing or imminent, and voluntary water-use restrictions are requested. Severe drought is classified by the USDA as meaning that crop or pasture losses are likely, water shortages are common, and water restrictions are imposed.

The year 2004 was the last year of a six-year drought in Utah. But this year brought the return of drought conditions, according to federal experts.

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Friday, August 24, 2007

Print

Sprinkler rebates aid homeowners to conserve

**MICHAEL RIGERT** - North County Staff

With drought conditions continuing this summer and many cities in Utah County establishing watering restrictions, residents may be interested to know there's a program that rewards homeowners with cash for installing water-wise sprinkler components.

In its third year, the Landscape Irrigation Product Rebates program offered by the Central Utah Water Conservancy District offers cash rebates to homeowners for purchasing and installing water-conserving sprinkler components, said district conservation programs coordinator Nancy Hardman. Not surprisingly, the program's popularity has surged.

To date this year (the season runs from May to June of the following year), the district has paid out \$8,500 in rebates to 95 rebate applicants. Last year, 122 homeowners got back \$9,700 in rebates, and in 2005, 44 rebate applicants were reimbursed \$4,000.

"So it's doubled, easily," Hardman said.

The rebates are based on the equipment residents install:

14-day calendar smart controller clocks -- up to \$75 depending on the number of watering stations;

weather stations or soil moisture sensors connected to the controller clock that regulate water use based on current conditions -- up to \$100;

pressure regulators -- 50 percent, up to \$45; and

low precipitation stream-spray nozzles, bubblers and xeri-sprays and drip emitters -- 50 percent up to \$100.

Hardman cautions homeowners, however, that the smart controller clocks don't conserve water if they're not attended every few weeks and if the times and schedules aren't regularly adjusted based on weather conditions.

To get the rebates, individuals simply purchase and install the parts (examples of water-efficient models and brands can be found at [www.cuwcd.com/rebates](http://www.cuwcd.com/rebates) or at the Central Utah Gardens in Orem), download and fill out the application form from the Web site, and mail it along with original product receipts to the address on the form.

The total rebate maximum for the program is \$250.

To receive rebates, homeowners consent to providing water use information from March through October to program administrators so they can determine the water-saving effectiveness of the program.

The rebate program is "specifically designed or hoped to encourage people to try different technologies to help them save water," Hardman said. "When people invest in a system and get decent equipment and it's used the way it's intended, they can save water."

The rebates, she said, are intended to offset the cost to individuals for installing more sophisticated, water efficient parts.

Though there's been abuses of the program and some applicants have undercut its purpose by purchasing the most inexpensive parts that may not be water efficient, Hardman said annual tweaks to the program have curbed misuse.

Andy Wade, assistant manager at sprinkler supply company Ewing Irrigation-Golf-Industrial in Orem, said the company informs customers about the savings they can get by participating in the Central Utah Water Conservancy District program.

"They get half off and it helps them out a bit and gets them to buy products that are more water saving," he said.

Though district officials won't know for sure exactly how much water the program is saving until after this third season for comparison purposes, Hardman anticipates data will show at least a 25 percent water-use reduction.

"I think it can be dramatically more than that," she said.



*This story appeared in The Daily Herald on page D1.*

Article views: 205

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**ksl.com**

Syracuse Officials Say Tap Water is Safe  
August 21, 2007



SYRACUSE, Utah (AP) -- A report from Syracuse officials says the city's water supply may have bacteria in it, but it shouldn't threaten the public's health.

Additional testing of Syracuse's water revealed no E. coli or other disease-causing bacteria. Health officials say Syracuse residents should not worry about their drinking water.

Syracuse Public Works Director Mike Waite says residents in his city have confused the warning about drinking water with one about swimming pools, which have been causing some residents to become sick.

He says some residents are blaming the wrong one for their symptoms. He says some who have seen the coliform warning thought tap water was giving them diarrhea, but that's not the case.

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Information from: Standard-Examiner

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Protecting Great Salt Lake from expanded mineral development

**Lynn De Freitas**  
**Salt Lake Tribune**

Article Last Updated:08/18/2007 12:47:36 PM MDT

More than 5 million birds - 250 species - use the Great Salt Lake and its surrounding wetlands every year. Many of these birds use the lake to breed, including the magnificent American white pelican and the California gull, Utah's state bird.

The Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands has a core obligation, required by Utah law, to ensure that any use of Great Salt Lake does not interfere with navigation, fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic beauty, public recreation and water quality on or in the lake.

The law also requires that protection of these "public trust values" trumps any other use on sovereign lands. The law cannot be superseded in the name of economic development.

Unfortunately, the division has just done exactly that. On July 2, the division awarded a 10-year mineral lease of 23,088 acres (36 square miles) on the west side of the lake to Great Salt Lake Minerals. The lease will allow the company to build many miles of dikes and nearly double its production of potassium sulfate, a fertilizer.

Coupled with an 8,000-acre lease already held by the company in Bear River Bay, when added to their existing operations, the footprint of development will be about the same size as Salt Lake City -119 square miles. That's 13 percent of the total area of the lake when waters are low and about 7 percent at average lake level.

Without the benefit of any actual research or analysis, the division justified its approval by relying on one or two random site visits, one interview with a company employee and a "no response" from the Division of Water Quality.

In assessing the wildlife habitat values, the division concluded that Gunnison Island's colonial bird populations would not be harmed. The scientific evidence? A solo photographer once visited and was able to photograph the birds. The brief visit of a lone photographer hardly compares with a large-scale commercial operation covering 36 square miles.

The island hosts one of the largest single breeding populations of American white pelicans in North America, and the lake holds the world's largest breeding population of California gulls. To breed, both species require strict isolation, and yet the division would allow Great Salt Lake Minerals to operate within two miles of this remote and theoretically protected island.

The noise of operations alone could disrupt these nesting birds while the dikes the company will build will allow easy access for predators - avoiding predators was the very reason the birds found refuge here in the first place. Unfortunately, the rest of the division's decision is equally devoid of even the barest attempt at scientific analysis or thoughtful scrutiny.

Rather, the division simply declared that "as in the past, it is expected that the bird populations will adapt accordingly as they have in past decades." Given the increasing development pressures all around the lake and the constant fluctuations of lake level, it is unrealistic to claim that the birds will find anywhere comparable to "adapt."

On July 23, a coalition including FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake appealed the division's decision. The division completely failed to undertake the necessary public trust analysis relative to the existing leases in Bear River Bay and new lease in Gunnison Bay. It acted inconsistently with its constitutional and statutory duties relative to diking and mineral extraction of sovereign lands of Great Salt Lake.

The value of the Great Salt Lake ecosystem to migratory and breeding bird populations in the western United States and the Western Hemisphere cannot be overstated. It deserves better from the state agency sworn to protect it.

\* LYNN DE FREITAS is executive director of FRIENDS of Great Salt Lake.

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# DESERET Morning News

## Protect Utah's water sources

*Published: August 14, 2007*

I would like to respond to "Drinking water is safe, providers say" (Aug. 10). In reference to the federal government's new policy relaxing Clean Water Act protections, Utah officials assure the public that our mountain watershed and wetlands will be protected by "additional local ordinances." However, these assurances ring hollow in view of the fact that Utah's Legislature enacted SB183, which "prohibits any county or municipality from designating or treating areas as wetlands unless they have been designated as wetlands by the United States government." It appears that some of our local officials are already gearing up to exploit this new policy reducing federal protection of clean water sources. Utah is one of the driest states in the nation. We must do everything in our power to protect the precious water sources.

**Marc Helleson**

southwest regional representative

Sierra Club

Salt Lake City

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>**Eagle Mountain's well fixed, water restrictions lifted****The Associated Press****Salt Lake Tribune**

Article Last Updated:08/14/2007 07:33:19 AM MDT

EAGLE MOUNTAIN - Repairs to an Eagle Mountain city well have been completed and that means water restrictions have been lifted.

The well failed a month ago and city staff realized the water levels in a reserve well were too low to ensure firefighting capability.

Residents were not allowed to water outside for four days. Restrictions were later modified but watering of established lawns was still limited to twice a week.

Although residents can go back to an every other day schedule if they want, City Administrator John Hendrickson hopes that people will be more conscious of how much water they use.

He says the mid-July failure happened at the worst possible time given watering demands and heightened fire risks.

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# DESERET Morning News

## Eagle Mountain fixes well, lifts water restraints

**By Amy Choate-Nielsen**

Deseret Morning News

*Published: August 14, 2007*

**EAGLE MOUNTAIN** — Eagle Mountain's broken city well has been repaired, city officials announced Monday.

Watering restrictions that have been imposed on the city since July 13 have also been lifted and the city's normal watering schedule will resume immediately.

"We're excited to have (the well) back on and running," Mayor Don Richardson said. "I'm really grateful for all of the residents and all that they did. They pulled together really well."

Richardson said several homes had their water shut off for not following the strict 15-minute-per-station watering guidelines during the restriction, but for the most part residents cooperated and conserved.

"We have a few plant casualties, but overall, things turned out pretty well," Richardson said. "For the most part, everyone was understanding, and I think they'll be glad to be through this and move on."

Residents can now water on a regular schedule.

Residents who live at odd-numbered addresses can water Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with no time restriction and residents who live at even-numbered houses can water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

No watering is allowed on Sundays.

It took some time to repair the city's well No. 2 because a metal shaft to the well snapped several hundred feet in the ground, Eagle Mountain spokeswoman Linda Peterson said. A hole had to be dug to the broken piece, then a new shaft was manufactured at another location, then brought in and installed in the well.

The city has three wells, but Eagle Mountain has plans to build two additional wells by May 2008.

The two new wells will almost double the city's water capacity, Peterson said.

Upgrades to the city's existing well No. 1 are also scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. Peterson says the upgrades will increase the well's capacity by an additional 1,700 gallons per minute.



# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Business Insight

Article Last Updated: 08/13/2007 12:12:58 AM MDT

### Saving energy

**Matt Brady, high-tech manufacturer**

Matt Brady is the president of I-O Corp., a Utah-based high-tech manufacturing firm. Saving energy is important year-round, says Brady, but it's particularly critical during the summer months when temperatures hit in the triple digits and air-cooling systems are working at a maximum.

#### What are some short-term energy-saving suggestions?

There are many things that businesses can do to save power, such as adjusting thermostats to automatically go higher in the evenings or on the weekends; turning off lights, PCs and office equipment at the end of the day; and eliminating unnecessary IT infrastructure when possible. There are great suggestions at [www.rockymountainpower.net](http://www.rockymountainpower.net).

net.

#### Explain what "thin clients" are and why they're important in bringing down energy costs.

During the summer you can walk into a room full of PCs operating at once and just feel the heat coming from the work stations. And to counteract the heat, employees have cubicle fans going and the air conditioning cranked up. This PC setup uses an extraordinary amount of energy and causes businesses to incur unnecessary electrical expenses. One long-term, energy-saving solution for businesses is to replace existing browser-based systems with thin clients. A thin client is like a scaled down PC, but it doesn't have a hard drive, fans or big power supplies. Thin clients provide a look and feel of a PC while using traditional software via a server. They're more efficient to manage, use less power and create less heat.

#### What businesses can benefit from using thin clients?

Businesses with large customer service centers, call centers, data entry centers, banks and manufacturing environments - all which house multiple employees processing at personal computers - should consider replacing their PC environments with thin clients. They could save significantly on energy costs if they did. In order to take advantage of thin client computing, an enterprise will need to invest in 'server centric' solutions like Windows or Citrix Terminal Services or browser-based applications. To read "Is the time right for thin clients?" go to [www.iocorp.com/home/news](http://www.iocorp.com/home/news).

#### How expensive are long-term energy-saving strategies?

An investment in a thin client work station is about the same as a PC. However, the long-term energy and IT management savings help thin clients pay for themselves. Thin clients are easier to maintain and less susceptible to Internet threats, such as viruses, worms and spyware, keeping the work force and IT staff more productive. In addition, thin clients are smaller (about the size of a three-CD set) and last longer than typical PCs, creating less waste in the environment. Whether replacing a business's current technology with thin clients is a good solution or other energy-saving solutions are more practical, I encourage business owners to join us in making 2007 the year for greener computing. Together we can reduce IT energy consumption and contribute to a cleaner, healthier world.

- Dawn House

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# Top Las Vegas water official blasts Utah request for study

Claims southern Utah development is target for water, not protecting environment, farmland

COMBINED NEWS SERVICES

LAS VEGAS — A top Southern Nevada water official is blasting a push by Utah lawmakers for a federal study of her agency's plan to draw groundwater from eastern Nevada, calling it a move aimed at fostering development in southern Utah.

Southern Nevada Water Authority chief Pat Mulroy on Wednesday also accused Utah officials of tampering with Nevada's "sovereign right" to develop groundwater resources within its boundaries.

"This isn't about protecting farmers or the environment," Mulroy said. "The truth is they [Utah officials] need water to develop the I-15 corridor."

On Thursday, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, countered Mulroy's attack, defending Utah's water rights, saying he was "fairly unsympathetic" to Nevada's position.

Mulroy would not consent Friday to a request from *The Salt Lake Tribune* for a 20-minute interview. Scott Hundey, spokesman for the Southern Nevada Water Authority, said Mulroy could not spare the time.

Mulroy's angry response, first published in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, came on the heels of *The Tribune's* report that Utah's Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee had sent a letter to Utah's congressional delegation seeking support for a \$8 million study of an aquifer beneath the Snake Valley in eastern Nevada and western Utah.

Some Utah lawmakers expressed a fear that large-scale groundwater pumping in the Snake Valley could lead to dust storms in the highly populated Salt Lake Valley.

Boyd Clayton of the Utah State Engineer's office said it was reasonable to assume the pumping project would cause the aquifer to drop at least 20 feet.

Conservation groups say if that happens, the vegetation that stabilizes the desert soil will die.

R-Prova, a member of the legislative committee that wrote the letter, predicted the water project would lead to "a lot of dust blowing into [Utah] over highly populated areas."

But Mulroy said the dust storm prediction was overblown.

"The amount of water we're talking about taking out of Snake Valley ... would never have that effect," she said. "It's so easy to create fear and confusion because people don't understand the issue."

Mulroy called the call for a study "an absolute deliberate stall tactic" by Utah officials who favor tapping groundwater from a shared aquifer to help develop Dammeron Valley near Cedar City and St. George.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Ne., on Thursday said he was not interested in a new look at the aquifer.

"It would be a waste of money," he said. "There has already been a study."

But Hatch said he thought a second federal study of the Snake Valley aquifer might be a good idea because farmers and ranchers are upset about Nevada's plan to tap groundwater and send it to Las Vegas.

"We are fairly unsympathetic to Nevada's position," Hatch told Stephens Media, owner of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. "The problem with this is the water appears to be on the side of Utah, and there are farmers and ranchers who are up in arms."

Hatch said Congress might agree to a study "as long as there is some equitable approach to the water" beneath eastern Nevada and western Utah.

"Utah is not interested in hurting Nevada or taking water that belongs to Nevada, but we are very interested in protecting our water, especially in the west desert where water is king," Hatch said.

Mulroy predicted the dispute could wind up in court.

In April, Nevada State Engineer Tracy Taylor authorized the Las Vegas-based water authority to take up to 40,000 acre-feet of water annually from Spring Valley, an aquifer in White Pine County west of Great

Authorities say an acre-foot of water is about enough water to supply two Las Vegas homes for a year. Generally, however, an acre-foot is equated to the amount of water a family of four or five needs in a year.

The water from both valleys would be piped some 285 miles to Las Vegas through a \$2 billion-plus pipeline that Mulroy said could be delayed if federal officials don't grant rights of way until additional study is done.

The water would benefit Coyote Springs, a new 50,000-home development 70 miles north of Las Vegas that would include 10 championship golf courses.

Reid helped Harvey Whittemore, a multimillionaire lobbyist and Nevada land developer, secure the property that had been designated as part of an energy corridor, *The Los Angeles Times* has reported.

One of Reid's sons is Whittemore's personal lawyer. Another Reid son is on the Southern Nevada Water Authority Board of Directors. Reid also sponsored federal legislation to allow the water pipeline to run through what had been a wilderness area.

Utah and Nevada must reach a water-sharing agreement before the authority can tap groundwater in Snake Valley, where ranchers and several environmental groups oppose the water authority's pipeline plan.

Mulroy is not directly involved in the talks.

The water fight could spill over into decisions about more than a dozen separate groundwater basins straddling the Nevada-Utah line, and both states claim rights to water from the Virgin River.

Mulroy said the dispute also could affect talks about sharing Colorado River resources.

Nevada and Utah are among seven states that draw water from the river — along with Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming.

In recent years, water managers have set aside differences to agree to share Colorado River water during drought.

► Information for this story came from the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Salt Lake Tri-*



# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Technology

### Gray data centers go green with a fervor to save electricity, costs

They do it by rejiggering cooling and layout, and through 'virtualization'

By Brian Bergstein

The Associated Press

Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated: 08/12/2007 11:45:07 PM MDT

The extremely air-conditioned computer farms known as data centers are the gas-guzzling jalopies of the technology world. Some require 40 or 50 times more power than comparably sized offices.

So with energy costs high and environmental friendliness making for good public relations, more tech companies are touting ways they are "greening" data centers, which serve up Web pages, swap Internet traffic, and process and store business information.

But it's a lot easier to put out a news release than to build a data center with a significantly smaller environmental footprint. Even as efficiency improvements are reducing the energy gulped by many kinds of hardware, the industry's overall electricity consumption could double from 2006 to 2011 as demand grows.

"It's somewhat analogous to someone who decides to purchase an energy-efficient automobile and says, 'Gee, I'm using 30 percent less gasoline with this, that means I can drive 30 percent more miles than I used to, and still do something for the environment,'" said Charles King, an analyst with Pund-IT Research. "It's an interesting philosophical question."

A new report from the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the easiest, least expensive changes to data center operations - involving tweaks to software, layout and air conditioning - could boost efficiency by 20 percent.

Even that level of improvement would still lead to higher overall electric use in the coming years.

To understand the scope of the problem, it helps to grasp why data centers are so power hungry.

Depending on the configuration and the equipment involved, as little as 30 percent to 40 percent of the juice flowing into a data center is used to run computers. Most of the rest goes to keeping the hardware cool, because heat saps performance.

Unlike in other office space, that A/C cranks year-round, to overcome the 100-degree-plus air that the computers throw off. This is why big data centers can devour several megawatts of power.

Neil Rasmussen, chief technical officer of data center equipment supplier American Power Conversion Corp., calculates that even a 1 megawatt data center will ring up \$17 million in electric bills over its 10-year life span. Even so, few data centers have taken obvious steps to reduce that load.

"I don't know too many people who have really tackled this and pushed things to the limit with what we already have," said Mark Bramfitt, a program manager for Pacific Gas & Electric Co., a California utility that has offered cash incentives for data centers to reduce their energy bills - and found relatively few takers.

For example, almost all the energy that goes into the air conditioning systems is used to run giant chillers that make the air pumped through the rooms' raised floors a brisk 55 degrees or so, sometimes as low as the 40s. Such extremely cold air is blasted in to guarantee that no single server's temperature gets much above the optimum level, which is around 70 degrees.

To be fair, some data centers are buried too deep within buildings to gulp fresh air. But the main reason for the A/C over-reliance is that data centers were built for one thing: to maximize the performance of the Web sites, computer programs and networking equipment that they run. If the air conditioning is colder than necessary, so be it.

Not until recently have the industry's concerns about the issue crystallized. Chip manufacturers such as Intel Corp. and Advanced Micro Devices Inc. have ratcheted up the electrical efficiency of their microprocessors - a metric no one cared about until the past few years. IBM and Hewlett-Packard Co. have invested in better ways to manage cooling systems.

One data-center operator, Rackspace Inc., just announced a new facility in Slough, England, powered by renewable sources such as biomass. Some smaller providers have gone solar, including California-based Affordable Internet Services Online Inc., which recently ran the Web infrastructure for the Live Earth concerts.

The "green" value in other steps is harder to discern.



One commonly talked-about effort involves virtualization, which lets one computer handle the functions of multiple machines at once. Rather than having dozens of servers operating at far less than their maximum level of utilization, data centers can use virtualization to consolidate those same machines' functions on just a few computers.

The result can be striking - in its solar-powered center, AISO uses virtualization to mimic the functions of 120 servers on just four machines - and clearly it saves electricity.

IBM claims it will save \$250 million - partly in reduced power costs - by taking 16,000 internal servers out of action and shifting their work on 30 big mainframes.

On data-center demand outpacing energy-efficiency improvements:

"It's somewhat analogous to someone who decides to purchase an energy-efficient automobile and says, 'Gee, I'm using 30 percent less gasoline with this, that means I can drive 30 percent more miles than I used to, and still do something for the environment.' "

CHARLES KING

Pund-IT Research analyst

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## Technology

### Gray data centers go green with a fervor to save electricity, costs

They do it by rejiggering cooling and layout, and through 'virtualization'

By Brian Bergstein

The Associated Press

Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated:08/12/2007 11:45:07 PM MDT

The extremely air-conditioned computer farms known as data centers are the gas-guzzling jalopies of the technology world. Some require 40 or 50 times more power than comparably sized offices.

So with energy costs high and environmental friendliness making for good public relations, more tech companies are touting ways they are "greening" data centers, which serve up Web pages, swap Internet traffic, and process and store business information.

But it's a lot easier to put out a news release than to build a data center with a significantly smaller environmental footprint. Even as efficiency improvements are reducing the energy gulped by many kinds of hardware, the industry's overall electricity consumption could double from 2006 to 2011 as demand grows.

"It's somewhat analogous to someone who decides to purchase an energy-efficient automobile and says, 'Gee, I'm using 30 percent less gasoline with this, that means I can drive 30 percent more miles than I used to, and still do something for the environment,'" said Charles King, an analyst with Pund-IT Research. "It's an interesting philosophical question."

A new report from the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the easiest, least expensive changes to data center operations - involving tweaks to software, layout and air conditioning - could boost efficiency by 20 percent.

Even that level of improvement would still lead to higher overall electric use in the coming years.

To understand the scope of the problem, it helps to grasp why data centers are so power hungry.

Depending on the configuration and the equipment involved, as little as 30 percent to 40 percent of the juice flowing into a data center is used to run computers. Most of the rest goes to keeping the hardware cool, because heat saps performance.

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8/13/2007



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CHARLES KING

Pund-IT Research analyst

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**Take it straight from the tap**

**By Tom Standage**

**Special to the Los Angeles Times**

**Salt Lake Tribune**

Article Last Updated: 08/10/2007 05:16:39 PM MDT

In 1783, George Washington visited the natural springs of Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Along with Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, he took a keen interest in the supposed medicinal qualities of mineral water, a subject of much scientific research at the time. The following year, a friend wrote to him to describe the difficulty of bottling the strongly effervescent Saratoga water. "Several persons told us that they had corked it tight in bottles, and that the bottles broke," wrote Washington's friend. The birth of the United States thus coincided with the origins of bottled water.

The business of bottling water really got going in the 1790s in Switzerland, where doctors acclaimed the medicinal benefits of the artificially carbonated water sold by Nicholas Paul and Jacob Schweppe. The pair began exporting their bottled soda water in 1800, and such was its popularity in London that Benjamin Silliman, a visiting American chemistry professor, decided to set up his own soda-water venture in the United States. Others soon followed suit, and bottled water became a popular health drink.

But bottled water's mass appeal really began in the U.S. with the marketing of Perrier, imported from France, during the 1970s. The industry has not looked back since.

In recent years, though, sparkling water has been eclipsed by still water in popularity. Last year, sales of bottled water in the United States reached \$11 billion. Globally, the figure might be as high as \$100 billion annually.

Go into a restaurant or a supermarket and you will be offered water from all over the planet. The idea that bottled water from particular places is good for you has persisted since Washington's time, though today it is not statesmen but supermodels, rock stars and actors who set the trend with their preferences.

Bottled water might look and taste pure enough, but the whole idea stinks. For a start, bottled water is indistinguishable from tap water. Put five bottled waters up against tap water in a blind tasting and see if you can tell the difference. Los Angeles tap water came out on top in a 2006 blind tasting, beating water from New York and Seattle, among others. One judge called L.A.'s water "exceptional. Like a bottled water."

In many cases, bottled water is actually derived from tap water and filtered - which is why PepsiCo has just agreed to add the words "public water source" to the label of its Aquafina water. But water from glacial springs is not inherently superior. Worse, shipping it around causes unnecessary environmental damage. Bottled water is often refrigerated before sale, wasting even more energy. Then there are the millions of plastic bottles, many of which end up in landfills.

Surely bottled water is purer and safer? Actually, no. The regulations governing the quality of public water supplies are far stricter than those governing bottled-water plants. True, there are sometimes contamination problems with tap water, but the same is true of bottled water.

The industry responds that it is not selling water; it is selling "portable hydration." But filling a bottle from the tap works just as well. The industry also likes to point out that bottled water is a healthy, calorie-free alternative to sugary soda drinks. The same goes for tap water.

Bottled water would appear to be the ultimate triumph of marketing. If you can get people to pay so much for something that is already available at very low cost in their own homes, doesn't that suggest that they will buy anything? Canned air, anyone? Of course, in a free society, people should be able to spend their money on silly things, provided they are in full possession of the facts. But many people are not, judging by the persistence of the idea that there is something magically superior about bottled water.

But now a backlash against bottled water is gathering pace as people realize just how daft it is. (Actually it is worse than daft; it is decadent to shun perfectly good tap water, given that more than 1 billion people on the planet lack access to it.) Many fancy restaurants now proudly proclaim that they serve tap water to burnish their green credentials. Restaurant patrons are increasingly prepared to ask unashamedly for tap water when offered expensive bottled stuff.

Campaigns such as "Think Outside the Bottle" attack bottled water as part of a corporate conspiracy to seize control of the world's water. Meanwhile, UNICEF's Tap Project, launched in March, uses the power of branding to promote tap water. New York tap water has, for example, been re-branded "NY Tap" and, on World Water Day, participating restaurants in the city suggest a donation for the tap water they usually provide for free, with the proceeds going to water projects in developing countries. I'll drink to that. Sparkling or still? Tap, please.

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Friday, August 10, 2007

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## Drinking water is safe, providers say

By Nicole Warburton

Deseret Morning News

Published: Aug. 10, 2007 12:03 a.m. MDT

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A recent Sierra Club report said the drinking water for as much as 90 percent of Utah's population is at risk because of new federal policies, but Wasatch Front water providers and the state's congressional delegation say the assertion is extreme.

Ken Wilde, section manager for the state Division of Drinking Water, said Thursday that recent tests show 99.85 percent of Utah residents receive water from a system that is approved as safe.

Florence Reynolds, Water Quality and Treatment Administrator for Salt Lake City Public Utilities, said city ordinances also offer extra protection to mountain watersheds that provide water to residents. Salt Lake City oversees watersheds in seven Salt Lake area canyons, including Big and Little Cottonwood canyons.

"Certainly there is concern if the regulatory agencies back away from protection of some waterways, but I don't think that puts us at major risk, because we have additional protections built in," Reynolds said.

Lawson LeGate, regional director for the Sierra Club, defended the group's report, which was released Tuesday. The report listed Utah as top in the nation for at-risk water, because much of our drinking water comes from mountain runoff, where some streams and wetlands are "isolated" from larger rivers and aren't wet year-round.

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Recent Supreme Court cases and a 2003 memorandum by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Army Corps inspectors can have more leeway in determining whether an isolated water system should be regulated. That's why the Sierra Club is concerned. The group wants Congress to pass a bill, the Clean Water Restoration Act, to clarify and tighten regulations.

"What this report illustrates is the importance of redressing that balance through a passage of legislation that will restore protection to an important water source," LeGate said Thursday.

But most of Utah's congressional delegation said the federal government shouldn't be given more control over the nation's waters.

Scott Parker, spokesman for Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, said the Sierra Club report "looks more like rhetoric than an actual study."

Regarding the legislation, Parker added, "there does need to be some logical clarification by Congress, but it can't come in the form of a sweeping, blanket authorization for the feds to control and lock down every square inch of water in America." Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said in a statement that he believed the Sierra Club's assertions were "ridiculous."

"For decades, many in the federal government have been trying to steal jurisdiction from the states for the regulation of our small rivers and creeks," Hatch said. "Recently the Supreme Court rightly gave the responsibility back to the states. That set back the Sierra Club's agenda, because they don't believe local leaders can do the job their neighbors elected them to do, which is ridiculous."

Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Utah, said he planned to review the need for the restoration bill this fall.

To see a copy of the Sierra Club report, log on to: [www.sierraclub.org/cleanwater](http://www.sierraclub.org/cleanwater).

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Friday, August 10, 2007

Water situation in Utah Valley appears dismal

[\[ Print \]](#)**CALEB WARNOCK - Daily Herald**

With experts calling Utah Valley's water situation dismal, residents are being asked to intensify conservation.

Since Oct. 1, 2006, only 11.86 inches of precipitation have been measured at the Provo-BYU weather station, the lowest amount since 2000. It's also much lower than the 30-year average of 20.13 inches, said David James, BYU weather station overseer.

Should the existing drought extend through the winter as it did last year, reservoirs won't be refilled. It is too early to predict whether the winter weather pattern can break the drought cycle, and water saved this year may be needed next year, James said.

With peak temperatures drying out lawns and gardens, water levels at many lakes and reservoirs in northern Utah typically fall rapidly during this time of year, he said.

The Climate Prediction Center is predicting below normal precipitation through October, he said.

"Of course when we have a drought year as severe as this, it only heightens the need to be aware of the use of water," said Chris Finlinson of the Central Utah Water Conservancy District. "As Utahns, we just have to learn there is never going to be a time when we can waste water. We do live in a desert and quite often we don't like to think like that. We like our beautiful landscape and we can do that if we are very careful and use wise watering practices."

Nancy Hardman of the Central Utah Water Conservancy District said August and September are when the most water is wasted in Utah. That's because residents do not reset their sprinkler systems. While July weather requires lawn sprinkler stations to run every two days, that should be changed to every three to four days in August as the days begin to shorten and the nights get cooler. In September, sprinkler stations should run only once every six to eight days.

Drought gripped Utah from 1999 through 2004, breaking briefly from 2004 to 2006, James said.

"Since then, the area has seen drier than normal conditions," he said.

No month in the current water year, measured from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, has seen two or more inches of precipitation, which is highly unusual, he said.

"At the BYU weather station, one has to go back to the dry 1987-88 water year to find every month during the water year below 2 inches of precipitation," he said. "The final water year total that season was only 12.89 inches."

Natural Resources Conservation Service statistics show that most northern Utah river drainages have received about 75 percent of normal precipitation since last Oct. 1. Timpanogos Divide, Trail Lake in the Uintas and the Payson Ranger Station have had about 70 percent of the normal precipitation since that date. Much of that was in rain that fell last October, James said.

In addition, last year's accumulated snowpack was much lower than normal, he said.

On Thursday, the latest conservation district data showed Deer Creek Reservoir held 62,000 acre-feet of water, down from its full level of 152,000 acre-feet. Jordanelle fared better, showing 284,000 acre-feet compared to 314,000 acre-feet at its full level.

Drought isn't the only reason for low water levels at Deer Creek Reservoir, though. According to Keith Denos, general manager of the Provo River Water Users Association, water levels are down, in part, because of a below-average snowpack, but the primary reason is because officials have intentionally lowered water levels to facilitate work that is being done on Deer Creek Dam.

The Bureau of Reclamation is upgrading the dam to be more resistant to earthquakes -- the agency is working on the second part of a three-phase project that will conclude next winter -- and water levels must be lowered while it works on critical parts, such as the spillway.

The reservoir has a maximum water level of 150 feet, and Denos said it is about 48 feet below that maximum. In most years, he said it would only be about 20-30 feet low at this time of the year. Next summer, when the final phase of the project is underway, the reservoir may be as much as 70 feet lower than the maximum.

"There's so many variables. It's hard to say," Denos said of next summer's water levels at the reservoir.



To help lower the reservoir's water levels, Denos said Deer Creek is providing water not only to its own customers but to customers of the Jordanelle Reservoir as well.

Caleb Warnock can be reached at 443-3263 or [cwarnock@heraldextra.com](mailto:cwarnock@heraldextra.com).

Reporter Jeremy Duda contributed to this story.

Water year ( Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) precipitation totals from the Provo-BYU weather station:

2006-07: 11.86 inches (so far)

2005-06: 19.39 inches

2004-05: 25.68 inches

2003-04: 17.45 inches

2002-03: 13.61 inches

2001-02: 12.74 inches

2000-01: 11.55 inches

1999-00: 13.47 inches

1998-99: 20.06 inches

30-year normal: 20.13 inches

*This story appeared in The Daily Herald on page A1.*

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# DESERET Morning News

## Groundwater-management scenarios are debated

**By Nancy Perkins**  
Deseret Morning News

*Published: August 9, 2007*

After decades of pumping water to feed thirsty crops, farmers in Utah's southwestern Escalante Valley are the focus of a controversial state-sponsored effort to force water conservation by imposing a groundwater management plan.

"This is a serious matter and we're committed to work with the people to find a resolution," said State Engineer Jerry Olds with the Utah Division of Water Rights, following a public meeting on the issue in Enterprise on Monday. "The Legislature has indicated it wants Utah to manage its groundwater. It's a sensitive issue. I know that."

In a 2000 study conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey, Utah Division of Water Rights and the Utah Division of Water Resources, researchers noted a long-term decline in the groundwater levels of the Beryl/Enterprise area. According to the report, water users were pumping more water out of the ground than the wells could naturally replace. The overdraft meant water levels were dropping by about 1.2 feet each year.

In 2005 a state task force on groundwater management toured the region for a first-hand look at several sinkholes that occurred because of the lowering water table. The following year, the Legislature enacted Utah Code 73-5-15, which calls for the regulation of groundwater withdrawals through the adoption of a groundwater management plan.

At Monday's public meeting, Olds reviewed four possible scenarios to manage the region's groundwater. The scenarios varied from reducing water use by a prioritized, set amount until levels were stabilized, to replacing high-water crops such as alfalfa with less thirsty crops such as corn and potatoes.

A fifth plan developed by the Escalante Valley Water Users Association would reduce the amount of acreage farmed over time by 10 percent and would cut the amount of water pumped by another 20 percent. Farmers would also be compensated for taking land out of production and for reducing the amount of water they are legally entitled to use.

"We've worked hard to develop a win-win plan," said LaDel Laub, a member of the water users association. "In Jerry's mind, our plan does not go far enough. I frankly think that Jerry is interpreting the statute a little narrowly."

More than 50 farmers working the ground in Escalante Valley produce more than \$100 million in agriculture products each year, said Laub.

"We have more interest in protecting the aquifer here than anyone else," he said. "It's our future. We're talking about an economy that could be destroyed."

Olds said he is open to any suggestion that would help move the project forward.



"We are trying to stimulate thought and debate within the community, and we want to seek some options on a range of things," Olds said. "This issue of mining groundwater isn't isolated to Escalante Valley. It's happening in several other places around the state."

To learn more about the Beryl/Escalante groundwater management plan go online to [waterrights.utah.gov](http://waterrights.utah.gov). Comments will be accepted through Sept. 30.

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Thursday, AUG 09, 2007

## Kaysville water safe after bacteria scare

Melinda Williams 07.AUG.07

KAYSVILLE — Residents here needn't worry about the safety of their water — the system is in full compliance with water standards.

Routine testing in mid-July revealed coliform in several samples, according to Davis Health Department Director Lewis Garrett.

As required by law, the public was notified.

The system was flushed and retested. Still, a couple of samples tested positive, so the system was flushed again. "Since July 13, there's been no positive test for coliform," Garrett said, and the city's water is safe to drink.

Coliforms don't necessarily cause disease, Garrett said, and what was found was not fecal coliform, which can lead to the E. coli bacteria and gastrointestinal problems. He said had it been fecal coliform there would have been more cause for concern.

Garrett said there's a variety of ways coliform can wind up in the water system, and he doesn't know what the cause was in this case. His theory is that hot summer temperatures lead to bacteria growing in the terminal ends of a system, where water becomes stagnant. "It's the most likely scenario."

Other causes could be pressure changes causing a backflow from secondary to culinary system, an animal getting into a storage tank and drowning or new construction.

Elevated levels of bacteria occur occasionally. All water systems in the county test for coliforms on a regular basis, and most use the county's labs. Garrett said that the health department is notified immediately of a problem no matter which lab is used.

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

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## Eagle Mountain

### City Council votes to expand sewer system

Growing community rushes to build new treatment facility

By Steve Gehrke

The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated: 08/09/2007 01:06:37 AM MDT

Eagle Mountain residents can flush with comfort again - for now.

Amid concerns that the booming Utah County community's sewers had reached capacity, the City Council voted unanimously this week to expand the current system and rush construction of a new treatment facility, which has been in the planning stages for more than two years.

Officials hope temporary tweaks will provide enough capacity to accommodate as much as two years' worth of growth in the vast southern portion of Eagle Mountain until the new system comes online.

"This is great," Mayor Don Richardson said Wednesday. "We're moving in the right direction."

Council members were more guarded in their optimism.

"We might cut it a little close," Councilman David Blackburn said. "But that's the fun and challenge of a growing city."

His council colleague, Vincent Liddiard, was criticized for "crying wolf" when he said residents might have to take turns flushing their toilets. But Liddiard fears the issue is still not completely settled.

"I'm afraid [construction of the new plant] is going to take too long, which is why I made the comment I did. I didn't try and cause fear and worry. I simply wanted to be sure we addressed a very important topic in a timely fashion," Liddiard said. "This is an issue, and it will remain an issue. Any delays will have dire consequences for continued building."

Eagle Mountain can hand out about 620 more building permits until the new plant is up, according to council members. But construction on that new system has not yet begun, and that troubles Councilman David Lifferth.

"When I was mayor two years ago, the plant was supposed to be online by July 2007. So we really haven't made progress in two years," he said. "Everyone has their attention focused on this now - and I guess it's better late than never. . . . We can't delay this anymore."

The council also passed a \$16.5 million bond Tuesday.

City spokeswoman Linda Peterson said up to \$2 million of that could double the size of the new sewer treatment facility. Former plans had it handling 600,000 gallons per day, but officials are considering increasing it to 1.2 million gallons as the city approaches 20,000 people.

The main funding for the new \$8.6 million facility will come from a \$6 million loan from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality.

About half the bond will fund two new wells and upgrades to two existing wells. A break at a well last month has forced residents to ration their water, but it is expected to be fixed early next week.

[sgehrke@sltrib.com](mailto:sgehrke@sltrib.com)

## What's next

Plans for a new sewer treatment facility will be presented to Eagle Mountain's City Council on Aug. 21.

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Thursday, August 09, 2007

Eagle Mtn. approves upgrade to wastewater plant

[Print](#)

**DONNA MILAKOVIC** - North County Staff

Eagle Mountain residents living in the city's center don't need to worry about being able to flush their toilets, at least for the time being.

The City Council on Tuesday approved spending up to \$30,000 to upgrade the South Service Area (City Center) Wastewater Treatment plant. That means the sewer system will meet the needs of continued growth over the next 18 months while a new wastewater treatment plant is constructed.

According to a report from City Engineer Chris Trusty, the improvements to the system will allow approximately 663 new homes to be built in the area before the newer and larger system is finished.

The new wastewater treatment plant, which is planned to process 600,000 gallons per day, is expected to be completed in May 2009. But Trusty said that if the city chooses to stay with the current plan, the treatment plant would be at capacity when it opens in 2009.

According to Mayor Don D. Richardson, the city is looking at options for doubling the capacity of the new plant to 1.2 million gallons per day for approximately \$2 million more.

City officials blame political and staff turnover for the delay of the construction of the new plant. It was originally approved by the City Council in 2005 and planned to be completed in July 2007.

Councilman David Blackburn, who has been on the council since 2004, said, "The biggest delay is from turnover of staff and political turnover as well. We have come so far now that a \$2 million Band-Aid sounds cheap and it sounds good."

Eagle Mountain has had five mayors and two public works directors since the plan for the new wastewater treatment plant was approved in 2005.

While the upgrades to the existing plant and the building of the new wastewater treatment facility will be costly, Richardson is confident that the future looks optimistic for Eagle Mountain's infrastructure.

"The future is brighter than it's ever been in Eagle Mountain," he said. "We have one of the largest infrastructure projects in the history of our city. It will put us in a great position."

Richardson also said that 30 percent of the city's water is used on parks and open space.

The new treatment plant will have a water reuse capability that will supply 25 percent of the parks' irrigation water in the future.

"Twenty-five percent more water frees up water rights. It's a great gift to the city," he said.

*This story appeared in The Daily Herald on page C1.*

Article views: 109

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## **deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Wednesday, August 08, 2007

### **Sierra Club targets Utah drinking water**

The Sierra Club believes that much of Utah's drinking water could be at risk unless Congress approves a bill to strengthen the Clean Water Act.

The environmental group released a national report Tuesday that lists Utah as the most at-risk state in the nation for dirty drinking water. The risk stems from recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings and a 2003 memorandum by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that gave inspectors more leeway in determining whether "non-navigable" and non-permanent sources of water such as Utah's streams and wetlands should be regulated.

Marc Heilesen, regional representative for the Sierra Club, said that because of the Bush administration's policies, Utah watersheds could become unregulated and drinking water unclean because streams and waters that don't flow year-round could lose Clean Water Act protections. In Utah, 79 percent of surface drinking water intakes are from such streams, he said, and 90 percent of Utahns get their drinking water from those sources.

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

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## **Snake Valley aquifer at stake**

### **Pumping plan stirs fears of a modern 'dust bowl' in Utah's west desert**

**By Patty Henetz**

**The Salt Lake Tribune**

**Salt Lake Tribune**

Article Last Updated:08/01/2007 06:56:33 AM MDT

The notion of a new Dust Bowl, of winds blowing across the Nevada-Utah border that could send clouds of destabilized soil to the Wasatch Front, has prompted Utah lawmakers to ask Congress to spend more than \$6 million for a closer examination of a proposed Nevada water pipeline.

Members of the legislative Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Interim Committee on Monday sent a letter to the Utah congressional delegation seeking support for a new study of the aquifer that lies under Snake Valley in western Utah.

The letter says that without a greater understanding of the effects of a Southern Nevada Water Authority proposal to ship groundwater from northern Nevada to Las Vegas, Utah officials can't know the extent of the project's potential impact on Utah.

But it could be dire, committee member Sen. Margaret Dayton said Tuesday.

"The impact of a decision out there is going to affect far more than people on the border. It's going to affect the Wasatch Front," the Orem Republican said. "If that area dries up into a big dust bowl . . . there's going to be a lot of dust blowing into the state over the highly populated areas."

In April, Nevada State Engineer Tracy Taylor authorized the Southern Nevada Water Authority to take up to 40,000 acre-feet of water annually from the aquifer west of Great Basin National Park, which lies between Interstate 80 and U.S. 50. An acre-foot is enough for a family of four for a year. The water would run through a 285-mile pipeline network to feed population growth in southern Nevada.

Taylor's decision, which would allow an annual drawdown of 40,000 acre-feet each year for 10 years, preceded the June 1 release of the U.S. Geological Survey Basin and Range Carbonate Aquifer System Study (BARCASS).

Taylor determined that if there are minimal or no impacts from the withdrawal, a total of 60,000 acre-feet could be taken each year - but that 80,000 acre-feet could be taken each year without significantly depleting the water table. The Southern Nevada Water Authority's application requested 91,000 acre-feet annually.

Utah and Nevada are still negotiating a water-sharing agreement that must be finalized before the water authority can proceed with its pipeline project.

Ranchers in Utah's Snake Valley oppose the drawdown, as do several environmental groups. They argue that the groundwater recharge would be inadequate to fill the Snake Valley aquifer and could tip a delicate balance, even causing the migration of briny water from the Great Salt Lake into the freshwater aquifer.

Estimates that the aquifer under Nevada's Spring Valley and Snake Valley could drop 50-200 feet are reasonable, said Boyd Clayton of the Utah State Engineer's office.

"Clearly there would be significant effects," he said. What's needed is a new study - BARCASS II - that would allow computer modeling of the local effects on the water drawdown.

A 50-foot drop in the water table would kill the vegetation that holds the desert soil in place, said Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada spokesman Launce Rake. If that happens, he said, terrible dust storms could result much as they did in California's Owens Valley, pumped dry to slake Los Angeles's thirst. Owens Valley winter dust storms cause the nation's worst particulate air pollution.

BARCASS cost about \$6 million, paid for through the sale of federal land. Steve Erickson of the Salt Lake City-based Citizen Education Project told the interim committee earlier this month that BARCASS II would cost more than \$6 million.

A coalition of state and national conservation groups and the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation on Monday said BARCASS is "flawed" and called for further scientific analyses of the Great Basin water system.



**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Tuesday, August 07, 2007

**Opening ceremony set for new Dugway hotel**

**DUGWAY PROVING GROUND** — A grand opening ceremony is set Wednesday on a \$9 million, 60-room hotel at Dugway Proving Ground, Army officials announced Monday.

Dugway spokeswoman Paula Nicholson said the old hotel was no longer adequate in many areas and that it will probably be torn down soon. The new hotel, called Desert Lodge, has 56 extended-stay rooms and four family suites.

Nicholson said the hotel is primarily for use by private companies working at the remote Army base, where the focus is on testing new chemical and biological defense technologies.

"Our testing has picked up so much, it's hard to get rooms," Nicholson said. In some cases, she added, a worker who lives full time on the base may be able to secure a room for a visiting family member.

Construction on the Desert Lodge began in June 2005 and was complete earlier this summer. The hotel opened to customers last month.

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# TOOELE TRANSCRIPT BULLETIN ON-LINE

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Headlines ▶ Latest News ▶ Tiny native fish making a comeback but still threatened in high-desert wetlands

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## Tiny native fish making a comeback but still threatened in high-desert wetlands

Written by Sarah Miley

An effort to reintroduce a small native fish to Tooele County has been successful, according to state wildlife officials.

Some 19,000 least chub were stocked in the James Walter Fitzgerald Wildlife Management Area & or Atherly Reservoir & near Faust in October 2006.

"They appear to be doing well," said Mike Mills, native aquatic project leader with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. "In a few months, we'll do our full-blown monitoring where we trap the whole reservoir and wetland below to see how many are left out there."

The least chub, a fish no more than 2 inches in length, is native only to Utah. Historically, the fish was found mostly west of the Wasatch Front, including Tooele County. The fish prefers wetland areas with shallow water 6 or 7 feet deep & and vegetation like cattails. Populations throughout the state began declining in the 1940s because of competition with non-native species as well as habitat loss, although people didn't begin to realize the disappearance of the fish until the 1970s, Mills said.

There are now only four sites with a naturally occurring population of least chub, along with a few sites where they have been reintroduced, according to Mark Clemens, manager of the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club. The most flourishing populations of least chub currently are in the Snake Valley in western Utah and eastern Nevada, which is also where the Southern Nevada Water Authority has proposed a plan to pump groundwater out to send to Las Vegas. This pumping project would threaten the survival of the least chub, according to Clemens, since springs in the Snake Valley where the fish live are fed mainly from groundwater.

"Engineering studies suggest groundwater pumping could lower the water table by as much as 50 feet," Clemens said. "When you begin to lower the water table that much, it almost certainly means you'll be cutting off springs all over the place used by wildlife, including least chub."

The Sierra Club, the Center for Biological Diversity, Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, and the Great Basin Chapter of Trout Unlimited signed a petition June 19 to get the small fish listed on the Endangered Species Act. If the fish ends up being listed or its habitat is designated as critical, any new withdrawals of groundwater would require careful consideration from a variety of state and federal agencies.

But not everyone wants the fish listed as an endangered species, and Mills said the DWR's main goal is to keep it from being listed.



The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, along with other state and federal agencies, drafted a conservation agreement and strategy in 1998 to protect the fish to avoid listing it under the endangered species act. Many wildlife officials say the job of conservation can actually become more difficult when a species is listed under the act because of federal red tape.

"Anytime a species ends up on the ESA, we get so many different regulations and landowners are impacted," Mills said. "It makes it a little harder to live your life when you have to deal with endangered species."

Part of the conservation agreement and strategy included finding out where least chub lived historically. Based on that study, the tiny fish was reintroduced into Atherly Reservoir as one means of boosting its population.

"We've been managing least chub since we signed the conservation agreement and we've really accomplished a lot," Mills said. "We've been able to bring least chub into reservoirs, and I really don't see the need to involve the Endangered Species Act. I think we're doing just as good of a job as anybody can do."

But Clemens fears those efforts will be in vain if the Snake Valley aquifer is drained by Las Vegas.

"DWR deserves a great deal of kudos and congratulations for steady dedication to the conservation agreement and strategy, but the problem is when you have a species like the least chub that is barely in equilibrium or on a slight downward trend in population, and then you pump the water away, all of DWR's work will have been for not," he said.

Another factor that could derail conservation efforts is habitat destruction.

"Least chub like areas that are swampy that people normally wouldn't see as appealing," Mills said. "But as our population grows, these areas are being drained or built over."

The mosquito fish, a non-native species, has also been responsible for the disappearance of least chub because of competition and predation. The mosquito fish, native to the central United States, was introduced to Utah from Tennessee in 1931.

While some areas require the removal of the mosquito fish before reintroducing the least chub, Atherly Reservoir is unique in that it never had a mosquito fish population.

"That's rare because it seems mosquito fish are almost everywhere now," Mills said.

Although the mosquito fish does get rid of mosquitos, the least chub does the same thing.

"Least chub is Utah's answer for eating mosquito larvae," Wilson said. "People brought the mosquito fish here thinking, 'Oh, it'll eat all the mosquito larvae,' but our own native fish fulfills the same purpose."

Mills said his office has been speaking with mosquito abatement districts to see if least chub would be a viable option for mosquito control. However, one of the concerns with using least chub as mosquito abatement is the potential that the fish could be listed as an endangered species.

"For that reason, mosquito abatement districts don't really want to get involved," Mills said.

While some people may not think a small fish is of much value, the least chub performs a vital ecological role. The fish is also a sentinel species that indicates the overall health of



desert wetlands.

"If the least chub is exterminated, and all the water sources are pumped dry, you haven't lost just one little fish species, but the ecosystem and rural way of life will suffer," said Clemens.

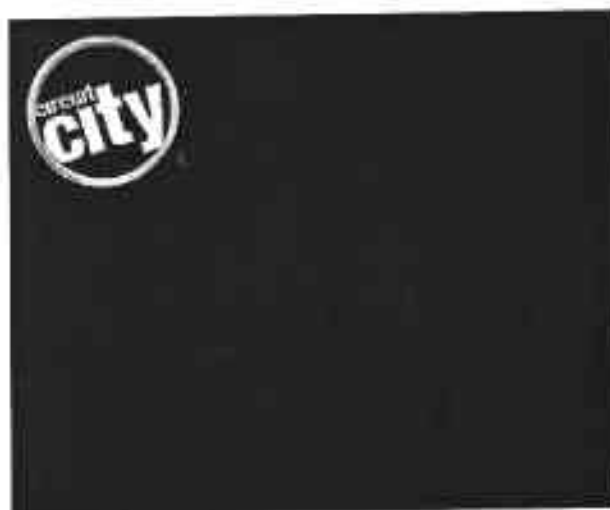
Farmers in the area currently have water rights that allow them to use surface water as well as some groundwater, he said. If water is pumped out, it will be coming out from under the least chub and the farmers.

The fish may be introduced at two additional sites in the county, one on Dugway Proving Ground and the other on the Utah Test and Training Range, according to Mills.

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**Groundwater plans presented**  
By **STEVE KIGGINS**  
[skiggins@thespectrum.com](mailto:skiggins@thespectrum.com)

ENTERPRISE - State Engineer Jerry Olds presented five possible scenarios for a Beryl/Enterprise Groundwater Manage night.

It's a scenario he didn't present that scares some water users in the Escalante Valley.

"The bottom line is, they want to hold the water in the ground and then reissue the rights when better to use it for," Beryl farmer Jeremy Hunt said. "It's the government. ... That's what they're

Added Mike Brown, president of the Escalante Valley Water Users Association: "You're not going to get pristine water there when the rest of the state is going dry."

About 200 people, including Sen. Dennis Stowell, R-Parowan, and Rep. Bud Bowman, R-Cedar Breaks National Monument, gathered at Enterprise High School to hear Olds' presentation and share their solutions for the valley's water issues.

The objective of a groundwater management plan, as outlined by Olds, is to limit withdrawals to protect the physical integrity of the aquifer and protect the quality of the water.

He offered four scenarios designed by the state and a fifth proposal developed by the EVWUA usage by 10 percent over 40 years.

"These are presented only for discussion purposes," Olds told the audience. "By throwing these out there, they may be criticized but our objective is to stimulate thought and debate."

Olds was criticized.

Following the state's 40-minute presentation, Olds was targeted by some water users during a session that went for 50 minutes.

"What are you going to do to protect the people you're hurting today?" asked Brown. "To me, the state thinks there will be a better use for the water in the future."

After Olds disputed Brown's claim that the state would save the water for a future use outside the valley, he fired his salvo at the state engineer.





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right."

"I don't agree with your comments," Olds said.

The five proposals presented by Olds were:

- The first scenario would leave things status quo for an undetermined period of time, then be amount for a set period of time. This process would continue until the safe yield, which the state acre feet per year, is reached.
- The second scenario called for importation of water, from the Lake Powell Pipeline - if it's even outside sources. But, Olds said, "Undoubtedly, the cost associated with (this proposal) would be reached."
- The third scenario would immediately begin reducing usage by an undetermined percentage reached.
- The fourth scenario called for reduced diversions by changing crops and adjusting crop patterns. In other words, the state is asking farmers who grow alfalfa, which requires the greatest amount of water, to farm grain, potatoes or corn.

"We understand this may affect the profitability of your operation," Olds said. "This would have no basis. I don't believe the state engineer has the authority to order it."

- The fifth scenario, presented by the EVWUA, would also reduce water usage from 4 acre feet to 3.2 and use metering to track usage.

"We need to come up with a voluntary plan we can steer a little bit," said EVWUA Administrator

Bob Holt, who grows hay and potatoes in Enterprise, spoke in favor of the association's proposal.

"It's a lot better to have 90 percent across the board than to have many people in the valley cut off," he said.

However, Olds said the EVWUA's pitch was "not sufficient" to reach safe yield in a timely manner.

Olds asked local water users to consider the possible scenarios, review water rights records and return them to his office by Sept. 30.

A third meeting to discuss the development of a groundwater management plan will likely be scheduled, he said.

In conclusion, Olds said, "Nothing is set in stone. ... We understand what we're doing is important."

**STORYCHAT**

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Comments by: **guyinstg**

Posted: Tue Aug 07, 2007 7:40 am

Not that I'm against expanding the Upper Res., but I believe it would take a lot more work than you think. It would hold more water on all sides except the east side. It would be very costly to make that possible. But also, the people who will be affected by this, the underground water users, don't even have access to Res. water. It is a completely different water user's association that I believe, not completely sure, have already sold ALL of their water shares to other farmers. Bob Holt would about be the only one that could use a little of

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that water due to the fact that he has bought so many of the small farms that had those water rights, but it would in no way, come even close to providing the amount of water that he is pulling out of the ground to irrigate his crops.

Comments by: **Shutup-n-fly** Posted: Tue Aug 07, 2007 6:33 am  
I thought this State Engineer Olds was a engineer. He is suppose to have answers.

As J. Hunt said "It's the government

And one more thing about the state is, The Dam rework at the upper Enterprise Res.

With just a little more money, and not much more work. They could double the capacity of the upper res.

But NO we will just take your water.....

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

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## **Snake Valley aquifer**

### **Top Las Vegas water official blasts Utah request for study**

Claims southern Utah development is target for water, not protecting environment, farmland

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#### **Salt Lake Tribune**

Article Last Updated: 08/04/2007 01:40:08 AM MDT

LAS VEGAS - A top Southern Nevada water official is blasting a push by Utah lawmakers for a federal study of her agency's plan to draw groundwater from eastern Nevada, calling it a move aimed at fostering development in southern Utah.

Southern Nevada Water Authority chief Pat Mulroy on Wednesday also accused Utah officials of tampering with Nevada's "sovereign right" to develop groundwater resources within its boundaries.

"This isn't about protecting farmers or the environment," Mulroy said. "The truth is they [Utah officials] need water to develop the I-15 corridor."

On Thursday, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, countered Mulroy's attack, defending Utah's water rights, saying he was "fairly unsympathetic" to Nevada's position.

Mulroy would not consent Friday to a request from *The Salt Lake Tribune* for a 20-minute interview. Scott Huntley, spokesman for the Southern Nevada Water Authority, said Mulroy could not spare the time.

Mulroy's angry response, first published in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, came on the heels of *The Tribune's* report that Utah's Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Committee had sent a letter to Utah's congressional delegation seeking support for a \$6 million study of an aquifer beneath the Snake Valley in eastern Nevada and western Utah.

Some Utah lawmakers expressed a fear that large-scale groundwater pumping in the Snake Valley could lead to dust storms in the highly populated Salt Lake Valley.

Boyd Clayton of the Utah State Engineer's office said it was reasonable to assume the pumping project would cause the aquifer to drop at least 20 feet.

Conservation groups say if that happens, the vegetation that stabilizes the desert soil will die.

Utah Sen. Margaret Dayton, R-Provo, a member of the legislative committee that wrote the letter, predicted the water project would lead to "a lot of dust blowing into [Utah] over highly populated areas."

But Mulroy said the dust storm prediction was overblown.

"The amount of water we're talking about taking out of Snake Valley . . . would never have that effect," she said. "It's so easy to create fear and confusion because people don't understand the issue."

Mulroy called the call for a study "an absolute deliberate stall tactic" by Utah officials who favor tapping groundwater from a shared aquifer to help develop Dammeron Valley near Cedar City and St. George.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., on Thursday said he was not interested in a new look at the aquifer.

"It would be a waste of money," he said. "There has already been a study."

But Hatch said he thought a second federal study of the Snake Valley aquifer might be a good idea because farmers and ranchers are upset about Nevada's plan to tap groundwater and send it to Las Vegas.

"We are fairly unsympathetic to Nevada's position," Hatch told Stephens Media, owner of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. "The problem with this is the water appears to be on the side of Utah, and there are farmers and ranchers who are up in arms."

Hatch said Congress might agree to a study "as long as there is some equitable approach to the water" beneath eastern Nevada and western Utah.

"Utah is not interested in hurting Nevada or taking water that belongs to Nevada, but we are very interested in protecting our water, especially in the west desert where water is king," Hatch said.

Mulroy predicted the dispute could wind up in court.

In April, Nevada State Engineer Tracy Taylor authorized the Las Vegas-based water authority to take up to 40,000 acre-feet of water annually from Spring Valley, an aquifer in White Pine County west of Great Basin National Park.



The authority is seeking another 25,000 acre-feet of groundwater in Snake Valley, east of the national park.

Authorities say an acre-foot of water is about enough water to supply two Las Vegas homes for a year. Generally, however, an acre-foot is equated to the amount of water a family of four or five needs in a year.

The water from both valleys would be piped some 285 miles to Las Vegas through a \$2 billion-plus pipeline that Mulroy said could be delayed if federal officials don't grant rights of way until additional study is done.

The water would benefit Coyote Springs, a new 50,000-home development 70 miles north of Las Vegas that would include 10 championship golf courses.

Reid helped Harvey Whittemore, a multimillionaire lobbyist and Nevada land developer, secure the property that had been designated as part of an energy corridor, *The Los Angeles Times* has reported.

One of Reid's sons is Whittemore's personal lawyer. Another Reid son is on the Southern Nevada Water Authority Board of Directors. Reid also sponsored federal legislation to allow the water pipeline to run through what had been a wilderness area.

Utah and Nevada must reach a water-sharing agreement before the authority can tap groundwater in Snake Valley, where ranchers and several environmental groups oppose the water authority's pipeline plan.

Mulroy is not directly involved in the talks.

The water fight could spill over into decisions about more than a dozen separate groundwater basins straddling the Nevada-Utah line, and both states claim rights to water from the Virgin River.

Mulroy said the dispute also could affect talks about sharing Colorado River resources.

Nevada and Utah are among seven states that draw water from the river - along with Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming.

In recent years, water managers have set aside differences to agree to share Colorado River water during drought.

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\* Information for this story came from the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Salt Lake Tribune*.

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Deseret Morning News, Saturday, August 04, 2007

**Algae threaten lake***The slimy blue-green swirls in Utah Lake could lead to fish going belly-up***By Amy Choate-Nielsen**  
Deseret Morning News

PROVO — The soupy green swirls of blue-green algae on the surface of Utah Lake aren't pretty — but worse, they could be deadly.

Utah Lake's high phosphorus levels have created a breeding ground for the algae, which can create massive, slimy blooms in the right conditions. If too much of the algae grows, then dies, the results could be catastrophic for the lake's ecosystem, according to a report released Wednesday by Utah's Division of Water Quality.

"Where conditions are right, the algae take off, and then they die off, and you can have a dissolved oxygen crash and the fish go belly-up," Utah Division of Water Quality environmental scientist David Wham says. "When you look at the dynamics in Utah Lake and the species (of algae) we're dealing with, it really is a cause for concern because these kind of impairments have caused problems in other bodies of water that are similar to Utah Lake."

Blue-green algae is an indicator of unhealthy water, Wham says, which is one reason why Utah Lake has been on Utah's "impaired body of water" list for years. The lake is listed as being impaired for two issues: high levels of phosphorus and high levels of salinity.

It's the Division of Water Quality's job to figure out how to decrease those levels — and ultimately get Utah Lake off the impaired list — but Wham says the task is easier said than done. The high levels of salinity are naturally occurring, and as for the phosphorus, finding a limit to how many nutrients can be in the water is a difficult number to pinpoint.

The division's recent study shows that the lake has high phosphorus levels and that 76 percent of the lake's phosphorus comes from surrounding waste water treatment facilities, but a direct connection between the phosphorus and the health of the lake's fish hasn't been found.

The division is also missing some data from their report — a determination of how much phosphorus in the water is too much — but a fear that the tipping point could be frighteningly near has prompted the division to make a recommendation that may cause some criticism.

"It's not a healthy ecosystem, I think we can all agree to that," Wham said Wednesday to a room full of Utah Lake stakeholders, including representatives from several cities that border the lake. "We do have some holes in our data set, and it's enough to give us pause, given the other symptoms of the lake, but we're not comfortable washing our hands of it and walking away and saying it looks fine."

The Division of Water Quality is advocating that the best way to reduce the lake's phosphorus will be to require the waste treatment facilities to remove phosphorus from their effluent flow through a biological phosphorus removal process.

Costs for the process could be millions of dollars, depending on the size of the waste treatment plant, and the cost would most likely be carried on the shoulders of Utah County's municipalities.

Provo's deputy public works director, Greg Beckstrom, said the potential cost isn't the greatest cause for concern, but it is the lack of assurance that a biological phosphorus



Don Forsyth of West Valley City checks a fishing pole while fishing at Utah Lake State Park Tuesday morning.

Stuart Johnson, Deseret Morning News





Deseret Morning News graphic

the chemical problems in the lake. I don't think there's an option."

removal system will work.

"I don't think the municipalities will be opposed to (taking a biological treatment approach), but I think they will want to see some documentation saying this is going to be a beneficial result of that process before they pony up the money," Beckstrom said.

Wham says the division will continue to study the lake to try to find more conclusive data on the effect a reduced amount of phosphorus in the water will have on the lake. One unknown factor Wham faces is the impact the June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program will have on the lake's ecosystem and phosphorus levels.

The program is focused on removing carp from the lake to allow the June Sucker to flourish again in its native environment, but the carp may be one factor that has kept the lake from turning into a colossal algae bloom.

The carp keep the water murky by constantly stirring up the lake's sediment, so not as much light can filter through to feed the algae. If more light filtered through the water, more algae could grow, Wham says.

Still, Reed Harris, program manager for the June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program, says if Utah Lake is ever going to be restored to a healthy and natural state, the carp need to be removed.

"If carp remain in the system and it continues to go the way it is now, it will only get worse, it will never get better," Harris said. "When you look at all the number of people that are living around the lake, they've decided a change needs to take place and it will never happen with the number of carp that are in the system. ... It behooves us all as we look into the future to try and solve these ecological problems that are out there as well as

#### ► On the Web

A copy of the Division of Water Quality's study on Utah Lake can be found online at the division's Web site: [www.waterquality.utah.gov/TMDL](http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/TMDL). The division will be accepting public comments on the document until the end of August.

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**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Saturday, August 04, 2007

## New commission targets Utah Lake's image

By **Amy Choate-Nielsen**  
Deseret Morning News

PROVO — Utah Lake has been called muddy, stinky and repulsive by some, but to Reed Price, Utah County's natural body of water is beautiful.

That's why one of Price's primary goals as the first-ever, newly appointed executive director of the Utah Lake Commission is to try to change the minds of those who look down on the lake. He's also determined to fight off invasive plant species, deal with carp overpopulation and encourage responsible development along the miles and miles of Utah Lake's shoreline.

"What would please me most would be to see a change in public perception about the lake," Price said. "I think (Utah Lake) has an unfair way about

it. It is seen as a dirty, messy lake. If you look at water quality standards, there are a couple of levels that aren't where they're supposed to be, but otherwise, it's a pretty clean lake."

Price says Utah Lake is unique as one of the largest bodies of fresh water in the nation, and compared to the ponds Price was raised around in Kansas, it's practically crystal clear.

"I grew up with muddy lakes that you couldn't see your hand in front of your face in," Price said. "I never would have thought (Utah Lake) was an eyesore, but when you compare it to the lakes in the mountains, it is a little different."

For the past several years, Price has worked as an employee of Orem, first as a water-quality examiner of the city's waste-water treatment center, then as an assistant in the city manager's office. Monday was Price's official first day as executive director of the lake commission, but already his plate is getting pretty full.

One of the commission's first objectives is to develop a master plan for developing the lake, but first, Price has to get unpacked.

"We need to get the office set up, work on the policy manual, deal with administrative items — it will take a while to get done," Price said. "I honestly have no idea what the next month will bring, but we'll attack it on a day by day basis. The main thing is to promote the mission of the lake commission."

The Utah Lake Commission was officially established in March as an organization determined to help direct the lake's future. Members, who include representatives from state departments, Utah County and local cities that border the lake, maintain that the commission is not out to control the lake's rightful property owners but to provide useful information when and where it is needed.

The master plan, which will be paid for by the lake commission, will be a useful source of information, said Utah County Commissioner Larry Ellertson, who is also the commission's vice chairman.

"The primary thing is, (the master plan) would be a resource not only for the cities but also for developers," Ellertson said. "They could say, 'If I want information on Utah Lake, here is where I go.' It brings a single point of contact.... The master plan will be a guiding tool, but the other information will also be something that is important."

Among the commission's members are representatives from Utah's Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District. Occasionally representatives from the other agencies will present information to the lake commission on issues surrounding the lake that need to be dealt with.

David Wham of the Utah Division of Water Quality recently told the commission about the danger of an overgrowth of algae and invasive



Reed Price of the Utah Lake Commission hopes to see a change in public perception of Utah Lake.

Stuart Johnson, Deseret Morning News



phragmites, or non-native marsh plants, that surround the lake. The algae is a threat to the lake's ecosystem and the phragmites are a fire threat, Wham said.

"I'm very encouraged with the effort that's been taken by the Utah Lake Commission," Wham said. "It's been neglected for a number of years, and now it's being realized for its full potential.... There was never a cohesive body that we could take these concerns (about Utah Lake) to in the past, but now we have the commission."

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**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Thursday, August 02, 2007

**Kaysville water system flushed out****By Joseph M. Dougherty**  
Deseret Morning News

KAYSVILLE — Kaysville residents received letters this past weekend from the city saying coliform bacteria had been found in six of 10 drinking water samples tested in early July at the Davis County Health Department.

Health department director Lewis Garrett said Wednesday that the county had retested the water and flushed the system, and whatever worry residents had should be gone now.

The coliform variety that analysts discovered wasn't the fecal variety, Garrett said, meaning there's a low risk for bacteria such as *E. coli*, which cause gastrointestinal illnesses.

"I would be a lot more concerned about this if it had tested positive for fecal coliform," Garrett said.

Even so, enough samples have had positive results for bacteria that the health department is checking for parasites and protozoa, such as cryptosporidium.

After Kaysville got word of elevated levels of bacteria, the city flushed its water system, Garrett said. Retesting found two samples with the coliform bacteria, which led to a second flush of the system.

All subsequent tests, including nine completed Wednesday afternoon, have found no coliform, he said.

Garrett said higher temperatures during the summer can sometimes lead to bacterial growth in the most distant ends of a water system where water may be more stagnant than in central locations. Water samples, including those taken by the city and the health department, had been taken from the distal ends of the system.

The health department so far hasn't nailed down a cause for the increased levels of coliform, but the stagnant-water theory is a good one, Garrett said.

Other potential causes of coliform growth include pressure changes that cause a backflow from secondary to culinary systems, new construction or an animal that somehow gets into a storage tank and drowns.

"I've seen that two or three times," Garrett said. "But these tests were not that bad. It was cleaned up quickly. It doesn't look like a systemic problem."

Kaysville Mayor Neka Roundy said that when she learned of the bacteria, she wanted to make sure her city's public works department was complying with the health department's recommendations.

She said the city sent the letters to residents because state law dictates that residents be informed about water test results.

"As far as I know, we're in compliance with what they want us to do and what the state needs," Roundy said.

Garrett said elevated bacteria levels happen from time to time.

"We had a couple incidents last year," he said. "I wouldn't be surprised if we had a couple this year in Davis County."



# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Downwind again: Utah must guard against Nevada Dust Bowl

Tribune Editorial

Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated:08/01/2007 07:39:00 PM MDT

Utah legislators are rightfully alarmed about a nightmare scenario that goes something like this:

Las Vegas pumps the ground water from beneath the valleys of east-central Nevada and western Utah, creating a new Dust Bowl. Winds whipping across this wasteland send clouds of dust whirling toward the Wasatch Front, further degrading the Utah population center's air quality.

Sound far-fetched?

It's happened before. Los Angeles dewatered the Owens Valley in California, beginning in 1913 with completion of the Los Angeles Aqueduct. The drying up of Owens Lake has resulted in the valley being called the largest source of fugitive dust in the United States.

Members of the Utah Legislature aren't usually the kind of folks to raise environmental alarms. But they are concerned enough to ask Congress for \$6 million for the U.S. Geological Survey to further study the possible consequences of pumping ground water from east-central Nevada and piping it to Las Vegas.

We believe that study is warranted. One reason is that a draft U.S. Geological Survey study published earlier this year concluded that the aquifers beneath Spring, Snake and Steptoe valleys are closely linked, and that ground water flows from one valley to another in larger volumes than previously estimated.

That means that if ground water is withdrawn from Nevada's Spring Valley, as the Las Vegas project proposes, it is more likely than originally thought to affect the springs, seeps and wells in Snake Valley, 70 percent of which lies in Utah.

Utah ranchers would be the first to get thirsty. But if water tables were to plummet to the point that vegetation dies off, the dust bowl nightmare could become more than a bad dream.

In truth, no one knows for certain what the environmental consequences of the Las Vegas pipeline would be. The Nevada state engineer has urged caution, ruling that the Southern Nevada Water Authority may take 40,000 acre-feet of water a year from Spring Valley for 10 years. But he has ordered close monitoring, and if existing water rights were impacted, or the pumping were found to be environmentally unsound, Las Vegas would be ordered to curtail pumping or to mitigate the loss.

Trouble is, once Las Vegas has invested billions of dollars in a 285-mile pipeline network and wells, we doubt the city could be forced to turn off the tap. And Utah could be left in the dust.

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

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## Snake Valley aquifer at stake

### Pumping plan stirs fears of a modern 'dust bowl' in Utah's west desert

By Patty Henetz

The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated:08/01/2007 06:56:33 AM MDT

The notion of a new Dust Bowl, of winds blowing across the Nevada-Utah border that could send clouds of destabilized soil to the Wasatch Front, has prompted Utah lawmakers to ask Congress to spend more than \$6 million for a closer examination of a proposed Nevada water pipeline.

Members of the legislative Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Interim Committee on Monday sent a letter to the Utah congressional delegation seeking support for a new study of the aquifer that lies under Snake Valley in western Utah.

The letter says that without a greater understanding of the effects of a Southern Nevada Water Authority proposal to ship groundwater from northern Nevada to Las Vegas, Utah officials can't know the extent of the project's potential impact on Utah.

But it could be dire, committee member Sen. Margaret Dayton said Tuesday.

"The impact of a decision out there is going to affect far more than people on the border. It's going to affect the Wasatch Front," the Orem Republican said. "If that area dries up into a big dust bowl . . . there's going to be a lot of dust blowing into the state over the highly populated areas."

In April, Nevada State Engineer Tracy Taylor authorized the Southern Nevada Water Authority to take up to 40,000 acre-feet of water annually from the aquifer west of Great Basin National Park, which lies between Interstate 80 and U.S. 50. An acre-foot is enough for a family of four for a year. The water would run through a 285-mile pipeline network to feed population growth in southern Nevada.

Taylor's decision, which would allow an annual drawdown of 40,000 acre-feet each year for 10 years, preceded the June 1 release of the U.S. Geological Survey Basin and Range Carbonate Aquifer System Study (BARCASS).

Taylor determined that if there are minimal or no impacts from the withdrawal, a total of 60,000 acre-feet could be taken each year - but that 80,000 acre-feet could be taken each year without significantly depleting the water table. The Southern Nevada Water Authority's application requested 91,000 acre-feet annually.

Utah and Nevada are still negotiating a water-sharing agreement that must be finalized before the water authority can proceed with its pipeline project.

Ranchers in Utah's Snake Valley oppose the drawdown, as do several environmental groups. They argue that the groundwater recharge would be inadequate to fill the Snake Valley aquifer and could tip a delicate balance, even causing the migration of briny water from the Great Salt Lake into the freshwater aquifer.

Estimates that the aquifer under Nevada's Spring Valley and Snake Valley could drop 50-200 feet are reasonable, said Boyd Clayton of the Utah State Engineer's office.

"Clearly there would be significant effects," he said. What's needed is a new study - BARCASS II - that would allow computer modeling of the local effects on the water drawdown.

A 50-foot drop in the water table would kill the vegetation that holds the desert soil in place, said Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada spokesman Launce Rake. If that happens, he said, terrible dust storms could result much as they did in California's Owens Valley, pumped dry to slake Los Angeles's thirst. Owens Valley winter dust storms cause the nation's worst particulate air pollution.

BARCASS cost about \$6 million, paid for through the sale of federal land. Steve Erickson of the Salt Lake City-based Citizen Education Project told the interim committee earlier this month that BARCASS II would cost more than \$6 million.

A coalition of state and national conservation groups and the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation on Monday said BARCASS is "flawed" and called for further scientific analyses of the Great Basin water system.

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# TOOELE TRANSCRIPT BULLETIN ON-LINE

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## Ebbing water pressure in Stansbury Park not caused by growth according to manager

Written by Alleen Lang

High demand for water in Stansbury Park has some residents and lawn care specialists noticing a dip in water pressure, but Brett Palmer, manager of the Stansbury Park Improvement District, said studies show the community's water pressure is still well above state mandates.

Palmer said Stansbury Park has an adequate water supply, ensured by the fact that each homebuilder in the area is required to bring water shares with them when they join the improvement district system. In fact, he said growth should be creating better water pressure.

"I personally believe the more homes built and the more loops there are in the system, the higher the water pressure," he said. "I am not saying there are not dips in water pressure, but other factors could be causing that."

High demand for irrigation water brought on by a long, hot summer has had some effect on water pressure, according to Palmer. He compared the demand for water to drinking from a straw. If the straw is eight inches long, it is pretty easy to get water, but if the straw is extended to 10 feet, it requires more effort to draw water from the straw.

A high demand on the system results in dips in water pressure during peak times, he said.

Palmer said another possible cause for the reduction in water pressure could be the failure of pressure-regulating valves in individual homes.

Water from Stansbury Park comes from three wells. The first was drilled when Stansbury Park was established, a second well was drilled in 1978, and the third well was added to the system in 1999. Palmer said the improvement district is in the process of adding a fourth well to the Stansbury Park water system. They hope to have it online by 2008.

Meanwhile, the improvement district and the Stansbury Park Service Agency are working to relieve pressure on the system by removing the largest user, the Stansbury Golf Course, from the community's culinary water system.

The two agencies are in the process of preparing an existing well that produces lower quality water unsuitable for culinary use to irrigate Stansbury Golf Course, Palmer said. The irrigation water is expected to be online by the end of August.



## **deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Wednesday, August 01, 2007

### **Eagle Mtn. sewer situation not so bad**

**EAGLE MOUNTAIN** — City officials in Eagle Mountain said Tuesday that their city's sewer situation isn't as bad as some reports have recently said.

Questions about Eagle Mountain's City Center sewage capacity arose during a City Council meeting on July 17, but since then misinformation about the city's plans has percolated into the community, said Linda Peterson, Eagle Mountain spokeswoman.

Although City Council members delayed approving six new developments at the city meeting, a moratorium has not been placed on construction in the city, Peterson said. Council members delayed the approval pending more information from city employees about the capacity of the city's sewer system in the City Center area of Eagle Mountain.

An update on the sewer system is expected to be given at the city's next City Council meeting on Aug. 7.

Plans have been underway since early this year to implement intermediate steps to expand the city's sewer system, Peterson said. Within 90 to 120 days, those intermediate steps should be completed to provide additional service to more new homes. Meanwhile, the city is waiting for approval on a permanent expansion plan to construct a new wastewater treatment facility, Peterson said.

Other areas of the city, including The Ranches section of Eagle Mountain, are not affected by the sewer issue affecting the City Center area.

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## City studies \$40M waste water system

By STEVE KIGGINS

[skiggins@thespectrum.com](mailto:skiggins@thespectrum.com)

CEDAR CITY - Why use water once when you can use it twice?

That's the philosophy of Sheaffer International, LLC, an Illinois-based environmental development company that prides itself on

creating innovative and sustainable solutions to wastewater needs across the United States.

Cedar City could be the site of Sheaffer's next project.

The city is exploring the possibility of a \$40 million wastewater treatment and management system, designed by Sheaffer, to help the city manage water to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population.

"It's a fascinating kind of proposal because water is everything," said Cedar City Manager Ron Chandler. "If we can find a good and economical way to reuse water, that just would help us out tremendously for the future."

While negotiations between the city and Sheaffer are "at the front end of the planning stages," said David Mullan, Sheaffer's regional manager, Chandler said city officials have deemed the project as feasible.

If the two sides strike a deal, Mullan said Sheaffer could complete one of its dual water supply systems in 18 months to two years.

"It's a way to expand the water supply without building costly conveyances and facilities," Mullan said. "We think it makes sense."

The Sheaffer system - a potential alternative to the \$500 million Lake Powell Pipeline, which would deliver water from the Arizona lake to Iron County, is designed to allow

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water to be used twice, once for residential and once for agricultural.

Here's how it works:

- Sheaffer recruits local farmers who are willing to loan water to the city for culinary use. Not only does the city receive more water to meet the needs of urbanization, it saves a considerable amount of money by not needing to purchase additional water rights.
- The water loaned to the city is eventually used by residents, whether in the shower or in the sink, and then reclaimed in a series of three aerated ponds, or cells.
- The water eventually ends up in the third cell, where it is filtered and disinfected prior to being used for irrigation. Sheaffer provides storage for reclaimed water collected during the winter months.

What do farmers get out of the deal?

Sheaffer contends that reused water is actually better for agricultural use than the original water because it becomes more nutritious through the reclamation process.

At the July 11 Cedar City Council meeting, Mayor Gerald R. Sherratt told councilors that one farmer had already bought into the Sheaffer philosophy and agreed to loan 5,000 acre feet of water to the city.

One acre foot of water is equivalent to about 325,851 gallons, which can typically meet the needs of four people for a year.

"If this works for him, other farmers will do it, too," Sherratt concluded. "It's a truly exciting concept."

But the mayor said the city is still searching for "creative methods" to fund such a project.

The estimated \$40 million price tag would include a 7.165 million gallon per day reclamation storage facility and a system to return the water back to farmers for irrigation, said Mullan.

"This is one tool to make the best use of water in the Cedar Valley," he said.

Over the past 25 years, Sheaffer has been permitted or built 60 similar systems in 17 states, including Arizona, Colorado and Idaho.

One of the company's newest endeavors is at Copperleaf in Wapiti, Wyo., located between Cody and the east entrance of Yellowstone National Park.

Copperleaf will feature 131 estate homes on 550 acres along the Shoshone River in the picturesque northwest corner of the Cowboy State.

"We have enough water," Mullan said. "It just doesn't fall when we want it sometimes, and sometimes it rains so much that the ground is too wet. But, overall, we've got the same



amount of water as we've ever had.

"It's just how we use it."

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Cedar City eyes \$40m waste water system

The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated:07/31/2007 07:55:33 AM MDT

**CEDAR CITY** - This southcentral Utah community is considering a proposal to build a \$40 million waste-water treatment plant.

The plan is being pushed by Sheaffer International, LLC, an Illinois-based environmental development company.

The Spectrum newspaper reports the city is exploring the possibility to address continuing growth issues.

If a deal is struck, Sheaffer could complete one of its dual water supply systems in 18 months to two years.

The Sheaffer system is designed to allow water to be used twice, once for residential and once for agricultural.

Sheaffer recruits local farmers who are willing to loan water to the city for culinary use. Not only does the city receive more water to meet the needs of urbanization, it saves a considerable amount of money by not needing to purchase additional water rights.

The Spectrum says the water loaned to the city is eventually used by residents, whether in the shower or in the sink, and then reclaimed in a series of aerated ponds, or cells.

The water is filtered and disinfected prior to being used for irrigation.

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Utah County development

### Eagle Mountain postpones growth to assess sewer system

By Steve Gehrke

The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated:07/28/2007 01:35:25 AM MDT

Fearing its sewer-treatment plant can't handle any more waste, Eagle Mountain's City Council has delayed development in the booming northwest Utah County city.

The council recently put off approving six plats involving four developments with more than 200 homes. Councilman Vincent Liddiard questioned whether the current sewer system could serve that many units at the city's south end.

"I have extreme doubts as to whether we can continue to grow at this rate given limitations on sewer," he said. "If we don't take action now, we're going to have a problem."

The city already is struggling with water issues in the wake of a massive well failure that has forced residents to water their yards two days a week on a prescribed schedule.

Liddiard said he didn't want to add to those burdens.

"We don't want to have to tell people, 'You can water on these days and flush your toilet these days,'" he said.

Instead of approving the developments, the council requested solid information on the number of homes the current sewer system can serve. Liddiard and Councilwoman Heather Jackson said they have heard conflicting reports. Some say there is only enough space to handle 100 new homes.

That could become a problem, because City Administrator John Hendrickson said perhaps as many as 500 new units were already approved - and aren't affected by the moratorium - before the additional 200 came to the table.

"We decided to take a step back and postpone these projects while we get a number of where we're at and what is actually coming in and still needs capacity," Jackson said. "It would be silly to approve something you won't be able to give capacity to."

Hendrickson said the city is trying to provide immediate additional capacity by tweaking the current system to improve efficiency.

But the city has waited more than three years for a new wastewater system to come online - and it has another 18 months to wait.

Liddiard fears slight immediate additions might not fill the city's needs all the way into spring 2009, when he expects that new plant to come online.

"We haven't turned a spoonful of dirt at this point," he said.

Hendrickson said the plant processes about 250,000 gallons per day from about 1,500 homes - putting the facility near capacity. When the new plant comes online, he expects the system to handle 2,600 additional homes.

Meanwhile, Liddiard is worried about the way the city plans to pay for the new plant. He wants to increase one-time connection fees, rather than raising ongoing user fees for everyone.

"Why add burden on the people who already have capacity, just for new homes?" Liddiard said. "This should be pretty easy math, and we shouldn't say, 'Hey, do you want to pay for someone else to access the sewer system?'"

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What's next

The Eagle Mountain staff on Aug. 7 will report to the City Council with results from a study on the sewer system's capacity.

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**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Friday, July 27, 2007

## Water restrictions ease slightly for Eagle Mtn.

By **Amy Choate-Nielsen**  
Deseret Morning News

**EAGLE MOUNTAIN** — A few weeks ago, Pierre Fagerlund's new Eagle Mountain house was surrounded by nothing but dirt.

And freshly planted hydroseed.

The water-saturated grass seed was meant to grow into a lush, green lawn, but Fagerlund's luck — and timing — haven't quite worked out the way he planned.

Shortly after Fagerlund planted his hydroseed, one of the city's three pumps malfunctioned, prompting city officials to place restrictions on how much residents can water their lawns and gardens.

"Ours isn't going too good, I've got to be honest," Fagerlund said of his now-patchy grass. "But it's not all from the drought. ... Yeah, it's a little bit drier, but it's not like (the city's water restrictions) have destroyed our yard and we're all bent out of shape. It's a lot better than I expected."

Eagle Mountain first asked residents to obey water restrictions two weeks ago, when the shaft of city well No. 2 snapped in two. Since that time, city spokeswoman Linda Peterson says, the water levels have risen to a point to safely allow residents to use more water — but under continued restriction.

Residents will now be allowed to water two times a week at each sprinkler station for a maximum of 15 minutes, an increase from the previously approved 10-minute allotment.

Residents who installed new hydroseed or sod on their property before the city's well malfunctioned will now be allowed to water up to three times per day for a maximum of 20 minutes per sprinkler station.

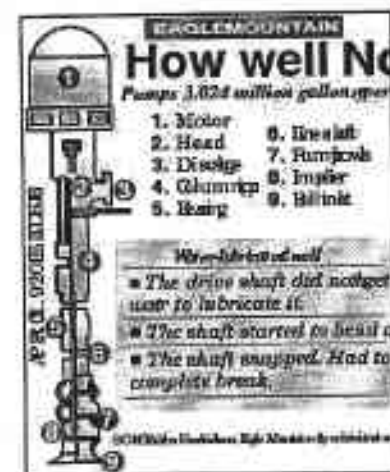
In addition to the city's scheduled watering times — the City Center area can water on Mondays and Thursdays between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.; the Ranches area can water on Tuesdays and Fridays between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. — Peterson says further water conservation efforts are encouraged.

Hoses can be used to water shrubs, trees and flowers, but the hoses cannot be left unattended, Peterson said. Using the city's water for other outside purposes is prohibited.

The well should be fully repaired within two weeks, Peterson said. The repair process has taken some time because the broken shaft was located 500 feet below ground.

"It's not the type of break where you can just replace a part," Peterson said. "It's a huge metal shaft that was snapped in two, so it has to be reconstructed."

More information on the city's well and watering restrictions can be found on the city's Web site, [www.eaglemountaincity.com](http://www.eaglemountaincity.com) or by calling the city's hotline, 801-789-6660.



Deseret Morning News Graphic

E-mail: [achoate@desnews.com](mailto:achoate@desnews.com)



# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Ogden ups rate on big water users

The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated:07/27/2007 01:10:51 AM MDT

OGDEN - Large users of water will pay more, the mayor said in response to a dry year.

The new rates affect residents who use more than 10,000 gallons a month, commercial operations that use more than 50,000 gallons, and large industries that use more than 200,000 gallons. The increase could be as high as 20 percent in some cases.

Ogden residents use a monthly average of about 6,000 gallons, so most will be unaffected, Mayor Matthew Godfrey said Wednesday.

The increase lasts until Nov. 1.

- The Associated Press

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# TOOELE TRANSCRIPT BULLETIN ON-LINE

Serving Tooele County Since 1894 | Friday, 27 July 2007

Headlines ▶ Latest News ▶ After fire comes flood: Heavy rains cause charred hillside to slide

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## After fire comes flood: Heavy rains cause charred hillside to slide

Written by Sarah Miley



Heavy rains sent a wall of water and mud down a hillside charred by the Kimbell fire, flooding Grantsville neighborhoods Wednesday night and

closing off SR-138.

The fire, which burned 14,292 acres (GPS calculations found the previous number of 17,000 acres was an overestimation) and is now 100 percent contained, cleared the hillside of vegetation, leaving the soil vulnerable when a fast-moving storm dropped over an inch of rain on the area in just a few hours. That created a rush of debris, ash, water and mud.

A portion of SR-138 was closed again for much of the evening as crews worked to clear debris, boulders and mud from the road.

Homes located in the Little Reno subdivision in Grantsville were hit especially hard. Although the water and mud crossing SR-138 came from the charred portions of the Stansbury Mountains, the flooding coming into subdivision wasn't specifically from the burned parts of the mountain, according to Daren Turner, incident commander of the Kimbell fire with the BLM. Crews coming off the mountain noticed water heading toward the subdivision around 6:30 p.m. and worked quickly with the community to divert water with sandbags and clean out a ditch full of sediment.

The northwest part of Grantsville was hardest impacted, affecting roughly 10 homes in the area.

To help prevent mudslides and flooding like this from happening again, erosion control is a high priority now that the fire is fully contained.

Erin Darboven, fire information spokeswoman with the Salt Lake Field Office of the BLM, said the BLM is mandated by Congress to form an emergency stabilization plan within weeks of full containment of a major fire. Advisers and specialists will first assess the damage and what has been lost. Based on their findings, they will put together a plan to heal and rehabilitate the land. For the county, this will include a combination of erosion control and reseed-





efforts.

"In the fall, winter and spring months, it's really almost just as busy with rehabilitation as it is during the fire season," she said.

Because of the steep terrain of the area, there's not a lot of natural vegetation to keep the soil in place during the best of times. After a fire, this kind of terrain is especially susceptible to erosion and mudslides.

"First we want to get cover on the burned areas as soon as possible," said Gary Kidd, emergency stabilization rehab coordinator for the BLM. "There are no guarantees mudslides and flooding won't happen again, but the idea is to prevent that."

Immediate measures like the placement of hay bales and dams will help control runoff. Erosion control blankets that allow water to absorb into the soil are another option officials may use.

"That is really steep topography out there and the rockiness will make it really difficult," Kidd said.

Livestock will need to be kept off the land during rehabilitation for a minimum of two growing seasons to allow plants to establish themselves.

Seeds take a while to take root, so those projects won't be done until later. Typically, seeds that do best with a cover of snow on them will be planted in the fall. Some resources used to accomplish such projects are bulldozing a fire line while pushing seeds into the ground at the same time. Helicopters and airplanes are also used to disperse the seed. Sometimes, people on ATVs will go in charred areas and spin seeds over the ground, using a device similar to a spinner used to fertilize lawns. Reseeding can be done with a mixture of native and nonnative plants, said Darboven.

However, reseeding efforts are very expensive and with the number of fires in the West and the state this fire season, seed supply will be limited.

"What we foresee right now is there's going to be a shortage of seed with the amount of fires in the West," she said.

Taxpayers are responsible for funding these reseeding projects, unless the fire was human-caused. The Kimbell fire was started by lightning.

With many wildfires raging at the same time all over the West, Darboven said their biggest challenge fighting the fire was lack of resources.

"With what we had and the tactics we used, we're happy we got the results we did," she said. "We wanted a smoke jumping unit (firefighters who parachute into hard-to-reach locations), that we just couldn't get because of other higher-priority fires going on."

The continuously changing conditions were difficult for firefighters.

"You'd be going with a game plan and all at once it would change due to a multitude of things, whether it be weather conditions, wind, time of day, or the types of fuel it was in," said Brent Marshall, public information officer for the Grantsville Fire Department. "You'd have to change your plan."

Federal agencies accounted for half of the total resources dedicated to the Kimbell fire, with



local agencies contributing 25 percent. State agencies contributed 15 percent and contracted resources accounted for 10 percent, according to Darboven.

"Local fire departments and volunteer firefighters are the backbone of this," Darboven said. "It's fire departments that serve out there and the volunteers that first went on scene that helped us out with that local knowledge. Those folks live there and the support they provide is above and beyond."

Many firefighters worked for 48 hours straight without sleep.

"Most of them put in some long hours trying to make sure that things were protected. The last thing we wanted was for anybody to lose their homes," said Marshall.

Being familiar with residents near the fire was an advantage when wind started pushing flames south toward homes in the Mack Canyon Road area.

"The Grantsville Fire Department knew a lot of homeowners in that area and we were able to talk to them straight about what was going on," Darboven. "Having that face-to-face contact with the background these folks have was invaluable."

The Grantsville Fire Department hosted 100 BLM firefighters from around the state before they were relocated to Grantsville High School.

Charred land is visible evidence of the fire's impact on the landscape, but the monetary impact has yet to be determined. Currently there is no estimated cost of the fire.

"I wouldn't even venture to guess," Darboven said.

Jim Springer, spokesman for the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, said with so many fires burning and information coming in very slowly, a final estimate of the fire damage won't be tallied for quite some time.

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Next >



Richards said he wanted to look beyond this fall.

"Waiting doesn't answer the question because next spring the water will be back down again," he said.

*This story appeared in The Daily Herald on page D1.*

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## Settlement Canyon Irrigation Company to shut down water

Written by Mark Watson

After a month of almost zero precipitation and several 100-degree days, heavy rains in Tooele Valley this week arrived just in time, as Settlement Canyon Irrigation Company plans to turn off its distribution system on Friday for at least one week to make repairs.

"We have a leak right at the top of the irrigation system and we'll be down for a week," said company president Gary Bevan. "We'll turn it off on Friday at 7 p.m. and hopefully we'll be able to turn it back on the following Monday [Aug. 5]."

The irrigation company knows the general area where the system is leaking, but Bevan said the repairs will not be a simple project.

"People have been telling us for a while about this problem," said Bevan. "It's not a matter of just fixing a leak. We'll have to change a whole section of the pipe."

The irrigation company contracts with Western Excavating and Pipeline Company for repairs.

Bevan said the shutdown will affect about one-third of Tooele residents.

"I would say about 2,000 houses own shares of Settlement Canyon water," said Bevan. "If people do switch over to city water it will severely impact the city's system. We've had an inch of rain this week, so people can go without for a week."

Settlement Canyon rarely shuts down the system during the watering year. Bevan said the only other time he remembers the system being shut down was 20 years ago for two weeks because of lack of water.

When the water does come back on, Bevan said users should use the minimum during this season of drought.

"Our water level right now is at the same place it was at the end of August a year ago," Bevan said. "The water is not going to last. It is either use it now or use it in August & but not both."

Karen Johnson of Grantsville Irrigation Company said the water year has been dismal.

"We're only allowing three agriculture water turns this year, but during regular years we get as many as seven and-a-half turns. Last year we were able to provide four turns for agriculture," she said.

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

**In fire-scarred Utah, storms bring the good, the wet and the ugly**  
 'Monsoonal' season dampen flames, but trigger slides, floods

**By Patty Henetz**  
**The Salt Lake Tribune**  
**Salt Lake Tribune**

Article Last Updated: 07/27/2007 06:34:56 AM MDT

The sticky weather that is curling paperbacks and turning swamp coolers into actual swamps arrived a little late this year, bringing with it good news, bad news and prospects for more humidity and lower daytime high temperatures.

The good: Thunderstorms and heavy rains cool the air, help firefighters and lessen pressure on the reservoirs that store snowmelt.

The bad: Thunderstorms and heavy rains that followed wildfires have caused landslides in Tooele and Millard counties, damaging a highway and several homes.

National Weather Service hydrologist Brian McInerney on Thursday said wildfires cause vegetation to exude an oily substance on the ground.

"When it rains, the water runs off a lot more," he said. In the worst cases, hillsides break loose, causing earth and debris landslides of a wet concrete-like substance.

In Millard County, a flash flood Wednesday broke bridges, muddied roads and stranded campers. No evacuations were reported, though some residents were placing sandbags around their homes, according to the Millard County Sheriff's Office.

Oak City residents spent a second day Thursday battling flash floods coming from Oak Canyon.

Residents created sandbag berms along Oak Creek and watched nervously as the water volume increased from a trickle to a raging brown flow. While the creek did not overflow Thursday, volunteers scrambled to lay sandbags along an irrigation canal that was running over.

The day before, water from the creek damaged two homes and covered streets in mud. State Road 125 and a few other roadways were closed briefly because of debris.

Millard County Sheriff Robert A. Dekker said damage from last year's wildfires has left little vegetation on the hills in the canyon to hold back water when it rains.

"We had to dig up the roads and bridges to let the water flow," Dekker said. He also brought an inmate work detail to help residents fill sandbags.

David Steele, a city councilman, said volume in the creek Wednesday night was so high that it could not flow through the narrow channel under one bridge.

"It was high enough that I didn't want to drive my truck through it," Steele said.

Craig Dutson's house was one of the two that was flooded. Dutson said he had 10 minutes warning that the flood was coming. The flood dumped 2 1/2 feet of water in his basement.

"I opened the door so it could flow through," Dutson said.

By Thursday night, Dutson's home was fortified with sandbags and hay bales.

In rainy Grantsville on Wednesday, just 90 minutes before a landslide hit homes, the Weather Service issued a flash flood warning for the area.

On Thursday, a handful of Grantsville homeowners were pushing away mud and water spread by the downpour.

The affected homes are on the Tooele County town's west side in subdivisions called Little Reno and Cherry Grove, said Jeremy Walker, the Grantsville city recorder.

Little Reno resident Elaine Burrola said up to 10 homes in her neighborhood had problems ranging from damaged yards to water in the basement.

Christine Smith, a meteorologist at National Weather Service in Salt Lake City, said that .76 inches of rain fell on Grantsville. But most of the water that rushed into town came from the Stansbury Mountains, where "several inches" of rain fell, Smith said.

Flash-flood warnings also were posted in southern Utah to caution hikers about the dangers of being trapped in slot canyons during sudden floods, McInerney said.

Thunderstorm weather that usually arrives this time of year sometimes is called "monsoons," true monsoons like those in southern Asia don't



## deseretnews.com

Deseret Morning News, Sunday, July 15, 2007

### Lake Powell pipeline won't minimize drought deficit in southern Utah

By Bruce Wilson

#### my view

A healthy public debate is under way in Washington County concerning the proposed construction of a water delivery pipeline from Lake Powell to St. George. Given the nature of such a large-scale project — it will take several years to develop a viable engineering plan, obtain rights of way and solidify funding — this debate will be waged over a long period of time. Long enough for oft-repeated statements, whether true or not, to be transformed into misleading myths.

One such potential myth is already in the making. Advocates for the project, including state water officials and Washington County commissioners, have repeatedly claimed the pipeline is necessary to provide a redundant water source that would minimize the impact of drought and water shortages in southern Utah. It's a claim with great appeal in a region where many residents maintain redundant supplies of food and other necessities as insurance against either personal or public disasters. But such claims of redundancy for the pipeline are highly debatable. It's an almost certain conclusion that every drop of water from Lake Powell would be allocated to supply new homes, not as a backup or redundant water supply for current homes or businesses.

Why am I so certain? First, according to state officials, the pipeline would be financed almost entirely by impact fees assessed on new construction. Washington County officials would have an enormous incentive to encourage rapid growth to pay off the billion dollar debt that would be incurred. And second, we know from experience, local city and county officials in southern Utah already have a track record of encouraging growth.

Even though every drop from Lake Powell would be consumed by newcomers, you might think it's still a good idea to have another water source. Then, if local sources were low and Lake Powell wasn't — or vice versa — there would be another source to make up for the shortfall. That would ordinarily make sense, but not in the unique case of Lake Powell. Lake Powell is already a significant water source for several gargantuan metropolitan areas located far downstream: Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz. So if drought conditions arise in California, Arizona or Nevada, affected cities need to get more water from Lake Powell to make up the deficit. Thus any city that relies on Lake Powell is vulnerable to drought conditions not only in the Rocky Mountain region but throughout the entire Southwest, greatly enhancing the probability of drought-related water shortages.

There are constraints on how much water each region may take from Lake Powell, but if rationing becomes necessary, it's pretty obvious who would have priority. Washington County wouldn't garner much sympathy competing for sustenance with Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, Phoenix or Tucson. Besides the disparity in size and economic contribution, each of these cities is already dependent on Lake Powell and would undoubtedly expect, and likely be granted, priority because they got their buckets in the Lake Powell well first.

At that point, if Washington County had a bucket in Lake Powell that came up less than full, where would the water come from to support the 200,000-250,000 new residents brought in to pay for pipeline construction who then require a full Lake Powell bucket to meet their water needs?

I hope this risky pipeline project is defeated so our children and grandchildren are not put in the unenviable position of having to answer that difficult question.

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*Bruce Wilson lives in Washington County and is the author of "Disarming the Culture War."*

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## **deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Friday, July 27, 2007

### **Flooding hits Utah: Areas that were hurt by wildfire now hit by rain**

**By Ben Winslow**

Deseret Morning News

OAK CITY, Millard County — In a torrent of rain, they stacked sandbags.



Volunteers pile sandbags to contain flooding in Oak City, Millard County, a year after wildfires hit the surrounding area.

*Jeffrey D. Allred, Deseret Morning News*

People trampled an elderly woman's flowerbeds, trying to save her home as a moat of muddy water formed around the property. Trucks pulled up with pallets of sandbags and men threw them to each other, fortifying the driveway from the fast-moving floodwaters.

"Everybody helps everybody here," Kevin Anderson said Thursday night as he walked over a muddy lawn to inspect the backyard for flood damage.

The woman wasn't even there to appreciate the hard work. She was with her husband, who neighbors said was in a care center after suffering a stroke.

Massive thunderstorms moving across Utah have triggered severe flooding. Authorities say areas already devastated by wildfires are now being hit by rain, sending water and mud down canyons and hillsides and into homes.

Flooding has also been reported in Salt Lake County, the Sanpete County town of Fountain Green, where a wildfire is still burning, and in Grantsville, where rains helped firefighters get control of another blaze.

More thunderstorms are expected today.

Here, flooding hit for a second straight day, destroying a newly paved bridge and sending about two feet of mud and water oozing into homes.

"It was terrifying," Karla Dutson said as she stood outside her flooded basement Thursday.

She was in the doorway of her children's room when the windows shattered. Several feet of mud and water destroyed everything.

"It ran through the house for about a half-hour," said her husband, Craig Dutson. "There was nothing you could do."

In Oak Creek Canyon, floodwaters stranded about 30 recreationists. Rock and mud about three feet deep covered the road.

On Thursday, authorities were able to clear the road long enough to get people out. The canyon is now closed.

Late Thursday night in Salt Lake County, police dispatchers said they had fielded calls reports of flooding basements primarily along the south valley and as far east as Cottonwood, west to West Jordan and also in Midvale as a quick-moving thunderstorm moved across the valley about 10 p.m. By about 11:30 p.m., no injuries had been reported.

Roads were also flooded in Sandy, Tooele, and Magna, National Weather Service meteorologist Linda Cheng reported. In some places, up to 2 feet of water had accumulated on the streets.

Some homes were also flooded in Fountain Green. Rainstorms moved over the area Wednesday night, putting a foot of water in some basements. Nearby, firefighters are still battling the Salt Creek fire.

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Conservation project

### Critters get safety ramps for water troughs

The contraptions will be sold for \$20 apiece and will prevent drownings

**The Associated Press**

**Salt Lake Tribune**

Article Last Updated: 07/24/2007 01:35:04 AM MDT

LOGAN - Livestock get a drink, but small critters can drown when they climb into water troughs.

So a conservation district in northern Utah is building hundreds of mesh ramps to save squirrels, mice, birds and skunks.

"We want to help the wildlife not die in there," said Nathan Daus, conservation planner at the Blacksmith Fork Soil Conservation District, which helps landowners with water projects, erosion control and other ranch needs.

"It's going to be good to get these out in the field and hear that they're not finding dead animals," Daus said. "Another problem is [the carcass] contaminates the water."

On Saturday, the conservation district organized the construction of 100 wildlife escape ramps, which attach inside the trough and are made of metal mesh. They will be sold for \$20 each.

The North Cache, Rich and Blacksmith Fork conservation districts paid for the metal. The Chucker Foundation, which works to protect a bird that has been found dead in troughs, also contributed.

Bridgerland Applied Technology College provided space and equipment in their welding department for the project.

"This will help save a lot of wildlife, especially this year when it's so dry," said Jerold Knight, head of the school's machine shop.

Some people working on the ramps were compiling volunteer hours to earn expanded hunting privileges through Utah's Dedicated Hunter Program.

Daus plans to build 200 more ramps in the fall and distribute them to U.S. Agriculture Department offices around Utah.

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July 26, 2007

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## EPA acts to ensure safe drinking water for Utah residents

### *Summary of actions taken*

(Denver, Colo., July 26, 2007) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 issued four administrative orders and settled one penalty complaint in Utah from June 2006 through March 2007.

EPA issues an administrative order when a public water system violates the Safe Drinking Water Act and its regulations. In Utah, EPA and the State work together through a workshare arrangement to identify public water systems against which EPA will take federal enforcement action. Utah also has authority to issue enforcement actions against water systems in the state. An administrative order requires the public water system to comply with the drinking water regulations and includes action items for returning to compliance. EPA issued administrative orders to the following Utah public water systems:

Daniel Domestic Water Co., Heber City, Utah  
Lake Powell Management, Alpine, Utah  
Sunset View Golf Course, Delta, Utah  
The Other End, Heber City, Utah

EPA issues a complaint for penalty when a public water system violates an administrative order. EPA may settle a complaint for penalty for a monetary payment, the amount of which is based on a combination of the seriousness of the violations and the size of the population at risk, among other factors. EPA settled a complaint for penalty with the following public water system with the penalty amount noted:

Daniel Domestic Water Co., Heber City, Utah  
Penalty Amount: \$2500.

EPA oversees the protection of public health and the environment in Colorado, Montana,



# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

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**Salt Lake Tribune**

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## New electric boats help keep waterways green

By Veronica Hinke  
The Associated Press  
Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated: 07/25/2007 07:27:50 PM MDT

If you hop in a boat this summer to take in a bit of nature, consider this: A few hours in a motorboat could be as polluting as tens of thousands of miles in a car.

The Environmental Protection Agency says the nation's 10 million gas-powered marine engines are among the highest contributors of hydrocarbons, oxides and nitrogen emissions in the country.

But you can still have fun on the water while protecting the environment. Electric boats and new engine designs significantly reduce air, water and noise pollution.

Electric boats debuted at Chicago's 1893 World's Fair and remained popular until the 1920s when the internal-combustion engine was introduced. They were scarcely used once people started fueling their boats with the faster technology.

That's all changing again.

Operating today's electric boats is as easy as flipping a switch. Joystick-style steering on most makes them a cinch to drive. They run just like a golf cart and recharge overnight for about 12 hours - or rejuvenate as you ride with \$1,200 solar panels.

You won't break any speed limits, though. The fastest models max out at 10-12 miles per hour, so they're best used in inland waterways or on the ocean when it's calm.

"My boats are like a tranquilizer," said Duffy Electric Boats founder Marshall Duffield. "We're selling a lifestyle - a social event. The majority wants speed, but what's made my boat popular is the social aspect and it's a simpler, more reliable operation."

Adelanto, Calif.-based Duffy claims the threat of global warming has driven hits on the company's Web site over the past two years far beyond anything it had seen since opening in 1970. Interest, company officials say, is coming from municipalities who've decided to clean up their lakes and noise pollution.

Duffield said a third of his sales are overseas to environmentally savvy countries like Holland, where some waterways already allow only electric motors.

Similar efforts are now moving stateside: In March, the EPA proposed rules limiting smog and soot caused by diesel-burning trains and boats. If fully implemented, the rule would require state-of-the-art engine technology that removes pollutants to be phased in starting in 2009.

Cynthia Georgeson, of Racine, Wisc.-based Johnson Outdoors Inc. - which makes electric boats ranging from \$2,000-\$8,000 - says about 2,000 or 3,000 electric boats are now in use in the United States. Bird watchers and bass fishermen, especially, appreciate the silence and maneuverability of an electric boat.

But boaters can still go fast and make choices that protect the environment. Outboard manufacturers now offer four-stroke "low pollution engines" or direct fuel-injection two-stroke engines. Catalytic converters can reduce marine engine emissions by over 90 percent, said Bill Becker, executive director of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies.

The EPA rules would require newer, four-stroke engines, which cost about 20 percent more but would reduce air emissions by 75 percent and use less gas.

On the state level, too, stricter engine requirements are being set to protect the environment. Dick Rowe, founder of Millington, Tenn.-based Indmar Marine Engines, predicts 99 percent of his electric fuel-injected engines will have catalytic converters. He's getting ready for a California Air Resources Board mandate requiring all outboard marine engines to have catalytic converters by the end of 2007.

"Adopting and enforcing stringent marine engine regulations may not always be popular, but they are critical and necessary steps we must take to continue improving our air quality," said spokeswoman Karen Caesar.

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LOGAN - Livestock get a drink, but small critters can drown when they climb into water troughs.

So a conservation district in northern Utah is building hundreds of mesh ramps to save squirrels, mice, birds and skunks.

"We want to help the wildlife not die in there," said Nathan Daus, conservation planner at the Blacksmith Fork Soil Conservation District, which helps landowners with water projects, erosion control and other ranch needs.

"It's going to be good to get these out in the field and hear that they're not finding dead animals," Daus said. "Another problem is [the carcass] contaminates the water."

On Saturday, the conservation district organized the construction of 100 wildlife escape ramps, which attach inside the trough and are made of metal mesh. They will be sold for \$20 each.

The North Cache, Rich and Blacksmith Fork conservation districts paid for the metal. The Chucker Foundation, which works to protect a bird that has been found dead in troughs, also contributed.

Bridgerland Applied Technology College provided space and equipment in their welding department for the project.

"This will help save a lot of wildlife, especially this year when it's so dry," said Jerold Knight, head of the school's machine shop.

Some people working on the ramps were compiling volunteer hours to earn expanded hunting privileges through Utah's Dedicated Hunter Program.

Daus plans to build 200 more ramps in the fall and distribute them to U.S. Agriculture Department offices around Utah.

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Battle to save Utah rivers pits preservationists against rural counties

By Patty Henetz

The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated: 07/25/2007 07:18:51 AM MDT

Some of Utah's most beautiful rivers and tributaries have a chance to earn the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers designation, which could protect them from dams and impacts from oil and gas drilling while preserving the scenery and outdoor recreation.

Whether they will, though, is another question entirely.

It has taken many years for the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management to take the steps mandated by the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Forest Service has completed a statewide assessment of more than 85 rivers and the BLM is working to finish a district-by-district evaluation of its waterways. Both agencies hope to finish their work within the next year and a half.

At the same time those efforts are moving forward, however, the state's rural counties are fighting hard to avoid the federal protections they say are unnecessary and would only interfere with grazing, livestock operations, water rights and energy development. The resistance could scuttle the entire effort, because county support is considered critical to necessary congressional approval.

In fact, one county's objections, voiced by a powerful anti-wilderness official, have been so strenuous that they prompted the feds to add significant limitations to the 40-year-old law that will affect any state's future attempts to name more wild and scenic rivers.

San Juan County Commissioner Lynn Stevens, formerly Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr.'s public lands policy coordinator, takes credit for the muscle. And he insists that none of the rivers in his remote county - including those in the Dark Canyon Wilderness and Dark Canyon Primitive Area - ought to be considered wild and scenic.

"I do not think the public would be better served by these designations than they are served by these streams and streambeds as they are now," said Stevens. "I contend the public is being adequately served."

Utah is just one of nine states that don't have any wild and scenic rivers and just one of two Western states - Nevada is the other - whose free-flowing waters haven't been granted the special status.

Under federal law, to be eligible for wild and scenic protection a river or stream must be free-flowing and demonstrate at least one "outstandingly remarkable value" including scenic, recreational, wildlife, geological, historic or cultural. Segments of rivers can be considered. While the law was meant to limit dam-building, a river can have a dam upstream or downstream of a protected segment.

The rivers must also be free of "impoundments," but only under the "wild" designation must it remain essentially primitive. Minerals development may not occur within a quarter-mile of a wild river or stream's high-water line. However, scenic and recreational rivers would be readily accessible and may be developed for public use.

Stevens dismisses scenery as a reason for river protections. "There are very few places in Utah that don't have scenic value," he said.

But his biggest complaint is about waterways that don't always have water in them. Such intermittent or ephemeral streams are not proper candidates for protection.

State law backs Stevens' objections, and has resulted in a 2004 clarifying memo from the U.S. Department of Interior. Most significantly, the memo states that protection should be based on the outstandingly remarkable values that are in the river itself or on its immediate shore, that are crucial to the river ecosystem or owe their existence to the presence of the river.

Margaret Kelsey, who is overseeing the BLM river process as field offices revise their land use plans, said the memo resulted from counties' dislike of the whole process.

"We wanted to have policy clarified so we wouldn't make a mistake," she said. "The guidance went nationwide."

And it will restrict future evaluations of rivers for wild and scenic values, said Mark Danenhauer, spokesman for the Utah Rivers Council.

"It makes it harder to say, 'This geology is directly related to this river,' he said. Is it related today? Or is it back in history? Is the geology today more



**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Sunday, July 15, 2007

## Lake Powell pipeline won't minimize drought deficit in southern Utah

By Bruce Wilson

**my  
view**

A healthy public debate is under way in Washington County concerning the proposed construction of a water delivery pipeline from Lake Powell to St. George. Given the nature of such a large-scale project — it will take several years to develop a viable engineering plan, obtain rights of way and solidify funding — this debate will be waged over a long period of time. Long enough for oft-repeated statements, whether true or not, to be transformed into misleading myths.

One such potential myth is already in the making. Advocates for the project, including state water officials and Washington County commissioners, have repeatedly claimed the pipeline is necessary to provide a redundant water source that would minimize the impact of drought and water shortages in southern Utah. It's a claim with great appeal in a region where many residents maintain redundant supplies of food and other necessities as insurance against either personal or public disasters. But such claims of redundancy for the pipeline are highly debatable. It's an almost certain conclusion that every drop of water from Lake Powell would be allocated to supply new homes, not as a backup or redundant water supply for current homes or businesses.

Why am I so certain? First, according to state officials, the pipeline would be financed almost entirely by impact fees assessed on new construction. Washington County officials would have an enormous incentive to encourage rapid growth to pay off the billion dollar debt that would be incurred. And second, we know from experience, local city and county officials in southern Utah already have a track record of encouraging growth.

Even though every drop from Lake Powell would be consumed by newcomers, you might think it's still a good idea to have another water source. Then, if local sources were low and Lake Powell wasn't — or vice versa — there would be another source to make up for the shortfall. That would ordinarily make sense, but not in the unique case of Lake Powell. Lake Powell is already a significant water source for several gargantuan metropolitan areas located far downstream: Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz. So if drought conditions arise in California, Arizona or Nevada, affected cities need to get more water from Lake Powell to make up the deficit. Thus any city that relies on Lake Powell is vulnerable to drought conditions not only in the Rocky Mountain region but throughout the entire Southwest, greatly enhancing the probability of drought-related water shortages.

There are constraints on how much water each region may take from Lake Powell, but if rationing becomes necessary, it's pretty obvious who would have priority. Washington County wouldn't garner much sympathy competing for sustenance with Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, Phoenix or Tucson. Besides the disparity in size and economic contribution, each of these cities is already dependent on Lake Powell and would undoubtedly expect, and likely be granted, priority because they got their buckets in the Lake Powell well first.

At that point, if Washington County had a bucket in Lake Powell that came up less than full, where would the water come from to support the 200,000-250,000 new residents brought in to pay for pipeline construction who then require a full Lake Powell bucket to meet their water needs?

I hope this risky pipeline project is defeated so our children and grandchildren are not put in the unenviable position of having to answer that difficult question.

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*Bruce Wilson lives in Washington County and is the author of "Disarming the Culture War."*

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

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related to wind erosion than to water? It makes it much harder to say a river has a value."

During his term as San Juan County Commission chairman, Stevens also helped force changes to the Manti-La Sal National Forest's 2003 final eligibility study that declared 14 rivers and tributaries were possible wild and scenic candidates.

Back-room discussions whittled those considered eligible to six through a 2006 supplemental memo that wasn't released publicly until after the Utah Rivers Council found out about it this past spring.

Adding to the murk, an announcement about an upcoming open house in San Juan County - the first in the Forest Service's attempts to find which eligible Utah rivers are suitable for protection - lists four eligible waterways that previously disappeared from the list but none of those that survived the first purge; again without public explanation.

Manti-La Sal river specialist Ann King said "guidance" prompted a new look at the county's rivers. The BLM already had eliminated ephemeral streams from consideration in its wild and scenic evaluations, so the Forest Service followed suit, King said. But essentially, the 2003 eligibility list the Forest Service thought was final, wasn't.

"Words and meanings and definitions were very confusing. It could have been our lack of understanding," she said.

Ultimately, the Forest Service will decide which rivers are suitable for wild and scenic protection. At the same time, she said, "if the state were to violently oppose something, I'm not sure what kind of support it would get from the congressional delegation."

Stevens said the list revisions came after "professional, affable discussion" focused on a Utah law that says wild and scenic designations can only happen to rivers that have water in them all the time. To him, dry washes don't qualify.

Neither do intermittent streams that may feed larger rivers, he said. Nor should rivers or streams that flow in a wilderness area have added protection.

But the BLM's Kelsey said the wilderness designation generally doesn't include river protection.

Rivers Council spokesman Danenhauer said that what may seem like a dual designation actually is necessary to protect the rivers. "There have been instances in the past where dams have gone into wilderness areas," which wouldn't be allowed under wild and scenic law, he said.

Another objection from the counties is that once the Forest Service declares a waterway eligible, it must be managed as if it already has wild and scenic designation.

Former Assistant Attorney General Mark Ward, now representing the Utah Association of Counties, said that could affect ranchers' ability to divert water for crops or livestock. A stock pond might be considered an illegal impoundment.

In the Uinta Basin, Ward said, restrictions on the White River could inhibit or forbid oil and gas development along wide swaths of land next to the river.

Counties have indicated to UAC that only a segment of the Green River and perhaps part of the Colorado deserve wild and scenic designation.

This doesn't mean the counties are against protecting water quality or wildlife, Ward said. But they want nothing to do with hands-off wilderness-style rules.

"We're all about protection. We're all about conservation," Ward said. "We just don't agree on this model."

Danenhauer said Ward said the same thing to him.

"We know there's a lot of misunderstanding out there," he said. "We really are trying to educate people so they understand what [wild and scenic] means and what it doesn't mean, so they can make decisions based on facts rather than on fears."

**\* The U.S. Forest Service, which has completed a statewide inventory of potential Utah wild and scenic rivers, will hold an open house to inform the public about the suitability of the state's rivers for the federal designation. The open house will run from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the San Juan County Courthouse in Monticello.**

**\* For more information, including maps and the history and application of the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: [www.fs.fed.us/r4/rivers/overview\\_act.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/rivers/overview_act.shtml)**

**\* The U.S. Bureau of Land Management also is evaluating rivers for wild and scenic designation. For more information: [www.ut.blm.gov/landuseplanning/index.htm](http://www.ut.blm.gov/landuseplanning/index.htm)**

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**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Sunday, July 22, 2007

**Delay urged on Flaming Gorge proposal****Associated Press**

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. — A western Colorado water agency wants federal officials to hold off on reviewing a proposal to funnel water from a southwest Wyoming reservoir to Colorado's populous Front Range.

The Colorado River Water Conservation District said Friday that Colorado officials need time to study a plan by Fort Collins entrepreneur Aaron Million to divert up to 450,000 acre-feet of water a year from Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

Million's plan calls for a 400-mile, \$4 billion pipeline that would take the water east across Wyoming over the Continental Divide and then south into Colorado as far as Pueblo.

The pipeline could supply enough water for up to 900,000 people a year.

The fast-growing cities along the Front Range, with an estimated 3.8 million residents, already draw water from a wide swath of the state, and many would welcome more.

Eric Kuhn, general manager of the Colorado River Water Conservation District, said Million's plan could leave less water available to western Colorado.

Water sent through Million's pipeline would count against Colorado's share of Colorado River water under interstate agreements, Kuhn said. Flaming Gorge is on the Green River, a tributary of the Colorado, which supplies much of western Colorado's water.

"We really do not know at the moment how much water is needed internally in western Colorado," Kuhn said.

Taking water out of Flaming Gorge would require a contract with the federal Bureau of Reclamation. The Colorado River conservation district board voted this month to ask the bureau to halt any work on processing the proposed contract, including an environmental study.

Wyoming water officials have also expressed reservations about whether the plan is feasible. Mike Besson, director of the Wyoming Water Development Commission, has questioned whether Colorado has legal rights to the amount of water envisioned in the plan.

Million did not immediately return a telephone message Friday.

He has called the Green River "the largest underutilized river in the West" and said his plan would benefit the Front Range's cities, agriculture and environment.

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Town close to normal again after well fails

By Steve Gehrke

The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake Tribune

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One week after a massive well failed in Eagle Mountain, the northwestern Utah County city of more than 12,000 is moving closer to normalcy.

The well's shaft snapped last Friday just above a joint, causing a 535-foot-deep break and reducing the city's pumping capacity by 40 percent.

"It's a mechanical thing, and mechanical things often happen unexpectedly, as it does with cars," city spokeswoman Linda Peterson said.

A repair crew with Widdison Turbine Service located the break Thursday, but City Administrator John Hendrickson, through a spokeswoman, said the break would take a few more weeks to fix.

In the meantime, residents are still on a fixed watering schedule. The mechanical failure forced the city to implement a conservation plan, which remains in effect - though with lighter restrictions than the complete ban implemented following the break last Friday.

"Not only would this [break] make it difficult to provide basic water needs for homes, but we were also concerned with fire protection for the city," Mayor Don Richardson wrote in a letter earlier this week.

The city has asked that residents voluntarily conserve indoor water usage and limit yard watering to twice a week for no more than 10 minutes at each sprinkler station. No outdoor water use is allowed for anything other than grass and landscaping.

Washing cars, sidewalks and porches is prohibited.

"The water restrictions that have been implemented . . . are working, and our water storage levels are showing improvement," Richardson wrote.

The City Council-approved conservation plan also gives specific guidelines for when exactly residents can water.

Those in the city's southern segment - City Center - can water Mondays and Thursdays from 8 p.m. until 6 the next morning. Those in the northern section - The Ranches - can water during the same hours Tuesday and Friday evenings into the following mornings.

"We're still trying to make sure people understand that there is a structure, and it's not just OK to water," Peterson said. "We need to follow those guidelines really strictly."

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\*Up-to-the-minute information on Eagle Mountain's water situation is available at [www.eaglemountaincity.com](http://www.eaglemountaincity.com) or 801-789-6660.

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

**"Today" show tasters say Salt Lake City water the best**

**The Associated Press**

**Salt Lake Tribune**

Article Launched: 07/20/2007 08:35:51 AM MDT

No wonder Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson wants to ban bottled water.

The debate about the environmental impacts of bottled water prompted NBC's morning show "Today" to hire two wine tasters to taste test tap water from 12 U.S. cities.

Salt Lake City's tap water came out on top.

Anderson is one of several mayors who has recently been extolling the virtues of tap water. Bottled water costs more for consumers and the environment, they say, and tap water is just as good.

Salt Lake City's tap water faced up against water from Portland, San Francisco, Dallas, St. Louis, Phoenix, Chicago, Cleveland, Memphis, Boston, Miami and Columbia, S.C., in the "Today Show" taste test.

Columbia and Boston were runners up.

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Article published Jul 20, 2007  
**CICWCD considers project**  
By **RYANN RASMUSSEN**  
[rrasmussen@thespectrum.com](mailto:rrasmussen@thespectrum.com)

CEDAR CITY - The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District met Thursday night to briefly talk about the state Drinking Water Board's recent visit to Iron County and Phase I and II of a major distribution project.

Because CICWCD General Manager Scott Wilson and a few members of the board were absent, the district elected to keep the agenda short and simple.

Kelly Crane, an official representing the water district, took the opportunity to bring the board members in attendance up to speed on Phase I and II.

First, Crane talked about the well that will pump much of the water needed to complete the project. Some of the board members seemed to agree that this well could be one of the project's most important components.

The well, Crane said, isn't quite what the district had hoped for, but it should adequately do the job.

"If we can get 300 gallons of clean water per minute, that's essentially double what we're getting right now," he said.

Crane also talked about the connection line at 4500 West, which, he said, is coming along.

The goal of the project is to create a system that smaller water entities can hook up to so, together with the water district, it can better serve its users. Ultimately, the new system will incorporate the entire region.

CICWCD engineer Rod Mills said the budget for Phase II of the project is \$7.8 million, which includes the district's contribution and allocations from the state.

Crane said the district is currently working to connect a few more smaller systems, but overall, "We're in pretty good shape, I think," he said.

Also during the meeting, the board talked about the state Drinking Water Board's visit. The state toured parts of the county and took a look at Phase I and Phase II.

Everyone in the room on Thursday seemed to agree that the experience was positive and the state had a lot of good things to say about the water district.

"They obviously were extremely complimentary," said CICWCD board member Sheridan Hansen.

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Friday, July 20, 2007

Am. Fork subdivision loses water pressure

[\[ Print \]](#)

**BARBARA CHRISTIANSEN AND CALEB WARNOCK** - North County Staff

American Fork's newest homeowners may have difficulty flushing the toilet or taking showers.

"We are reaching a crisis issue," said Dan Richards, developer of Mitchell Meadows subdivision in northwest American Fork. "People who will be moving into this subdivision shortly won't have water for their homes."

At a recent City Council meeting Richards said he has four homes completed and a fifth that will be ready in 40 days, but water pressure in the area has dropped from 65 pounds per square inch to 45. In an interview later he said the pressure has now dropped to less than 20 psi.

Tom Hunter owns one of the homes in the subdivision and will move in when his old home sells.

"My concern is if that whole circle (in the subdivision) gets developed, how are we all going to be able to take showers, do laundry and water our yards? The city shouldn't be approving subdivisions if they can't provide services," Hunter said in an interview.

"It has got me a little nervous," Richards said. "I am sure they are going to take care of it. I hope they come up with a solution and help us out."

Mayor Heber Thompson told city staffers to find a solution to the problem. In an interview, Howard Denney, director of Public Works for the city, said the city was hiring a consultant to determine options.

Denney also said that while the low pressure may be "inconvenient or not comfortable," the city is only required to provide 20 psi by state law.

"We are not deficient by state rule," Denney said. "We are meeting the minimum for a public system by quite a bit."

Denney also said he had not confirmed that water pressured had dropped below 20 psi.

Richards said he put a sprinkler system in last fall and had 65 pounds of water pressure. Again this spring it was 65 pounds, but in early July water pressure had dropped to 45 pounds.

"We measured the water pressure up there and it was down to less than 20 pounds this last week," he said in an interview. "You cannot run a house with 20 pounds."

Speaking to the City Council, Denney said the city's water tanks were designed to be filled and nearly emptied on a 24-hour cycle.

"About 8 to 9 p.m. is the maximum pressure," he said. "The pressure bottoms out in the morning."

He suggested residents in the new subdivision could water their lawns in the evening to help alleviate immediate concerns.

Richards said the problem was more than outside watering.

"The issue is flushing your toilet and taking a shower," he said. "Do you manage to do that within a certain hour?"

Both Richards and city officials agree the long-term solution is to install a second city water line in the neighborhood from a higher pressure zone. That cannot be done until 1120 North street is extended from 700 to 900 West, a \$1.5 million project the city is saving for that will require the road to be artificially built up about 20 feet above existing wetlands, Denney said.

The installation of pressurized irrigation across the city should also alleviate the problem because, as residents begin using the irrigation to water outdoors, demand will slacken on the culinary system, boosting water pressure, Denney said. Problem is, the pressurized system will be constructed over the next three years and it is unclear whether the neighborhood in question can be included in the first year of construction or not.

In the meantime, city planner Rod Despain said the problem would be solved in the fall when irrigation needs were diminished, but pressure would be low until then.



**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Thursday, July 19, 2007

**Sewage case resolved***Man pleads guilty to illegally dumping sludge***By Sara Israelson**

Deseret Morning News

PROVO — A man accused of illegally dumping sewage has pleaded guilty to charges against him, ending his septic-tank pumping business.

Marvin Butler, 50, and his business, Butler Services Almost Home, were charged in 4th District Court with a felony of unlawful discharge of a pollutant for dumping sludge into a hole near the Spanish Fork River, then covering it up.

On Wednesday, though, instead of hearing opening arguments on the first of a three-day trial, jurors were sent home. In a plea deal, Butler agreed to plead guilty, pay nearly \$9,000 in restitution, give up his business, sell his pumping trucks and spend 30 days on the jail's ankle-monitoring system.

Butler was charged under several provisions in the Utah Water Quality Act — that it's illegal to pollute state waters, including groundwater; it's illegal to put waste where there is probable cause to believe it would cause pollution; and it's illegal to mismanage septic sludge.

And under those provisions, rocks, which Butler has said he dumped into the hole, are considered a pollutant, especially if they've been in contact with raw sewage, said Deputy Utah County Attorney Paul Wake.

So even if Butler was dumping rocks left over in his septic truck that had already been emptied at a sewer treatment plant, the rocks still constitute a violation.

"Mr. Butler had to understand that despite his belief that it was OK to dump clean rocks, it was still encompassed by the statute as a violation," said defense attorney Steven Kuhnhausen who represented Butler's business. "You just can't dump rocks. Whether it contained fecal material or not, the point was, they were rocks."

Butler also faced an identical felony charge out of Juab County for allegedly slopping sewage on the side of the road.

Through an agreement with Juab County Attorney Jared Eldridge, Utah County prosecutors arranged a "global resolution" so that if Butler pleaded guilty to the charge in Provo, the Juab County charge would be dropped, Wake said.

"It's a fair resolution," Wake said. "It's the one we had put on the table (back in January). The interesting nuance to this plea agreement is that it focuses less on fines and jail time than on trying to push him into a new line of business and trying to get restitution for some higher-than-usual investigation expenses."

Of the \$9,000 restitution, \$3,000 is being divvied up between the city of Spanish Fork and the Utah County Health Department for the large costs associated with gathering and testing soil and water samples.

The remaining \$6,000 will be spread out among several law enforcement and state agencies to facilitate environmental enforcement training.

"Because this is an environmental enforcement case, we basically decided to be creative," Wake said. "Instead of making him pay money for the sake of punishment, the money would actually go to improving the system so we can do even better in this in the future."

Butler's operating license has also been revoked, said Lance Madigan, spokesman for the Utah County Health Department. When his license expired in January, Butler appealed to the county board of health and was granted an extension.

But the extension was conditional on the outcome of the court case.

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With a guilty plea, his license is considered revoked as of Wednesday, Madigan said.

The agreement specifies that the tanks have to be sold and sold to a non-family member who does not live in Utah County.

However, prosecutors agreed Butler could do office work for his wife's company, a portable-toilet distributor.

"Our concern is not so much this exact dump ... but we personally viewed this as a pattern that had been happening too many times and we needed to put a stop to it," Wake said. "We finally got the opportunity."

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Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mandatory watering restrictions set in E.M.

[Print](#)

#### CALEB WARNOCK - Daily Herald

Eagle Mountain City Council members voted unanimously on Tuesday to implement an emergency water conservation plan for the city, beginning immediately.

Voluntary conservation by Eagle Mountain residents has brought the city back from the brink of running out of water after one of the city's three wells failed on Friday, but experts believe the well will take two to four weeks to fix.

Rather than no outdoor watering, residents will be allowed to water their lawns for 20 minutes per home between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. Homes on the north side of the city may water on Tuesdays and Fridays; homes on the south side on Mondays and Thursdays.

Schools and churches will water between 8 p.m. and midnight on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and the city will water Nolan Park on Sunday between 8 p.m. and midnight.

Homeowners with new sod or hydroseed will be allowed to water twice a day everyday, but no new sod or hydroseeding is allowed until further notice. The new restrictions also forbid all car washing or washing driveways.

A handful of residents spoke out against the water shortage at Tuesday's meeting, saying the shortage was affecting property values and putting at stake millions of dollars of landscaping. Residents said they wanted honest answers without politics and quick solutions.

City manager John Hendrickson said experts believe the shaft of a 520-foot well broke about halfway. It will take another day or two before crews reach the depth of the break.

The broken shaft "made all the sense in the world to me because it was Friday the 13th," Hendrickson said.

Thanks to conservation by residents, the city's storage tanks are now full, said Mayor Don Richardson. The new conservation plan will help maintain enough water for emergency firefighting and daily indoor use until the broken well can be fixed.

While most residents have complied with the voluntary conservation measures, the new plan is mandatory, said city spokeswoman Linda Peterson. Residents found watering illegally will receive a warning. Their water will be turned off on the second offense with a \$100 fee to get their water turned on again.

"We will be spot-checking and monitoring, and we would like people to cooperate," Hendrickson said.

"This has been such a wake-up call," said Councilwoman Linn Strouse. "We need to add more wells and tanks if we are going to continue to grow like this."

Even before the well failure, the city was finalizing plans and financing to drill two new wells and build a new million-gallon storage tank within the next year, "so the likelihood that this will happen again is nil," Hendrickson said.

"I have been saving water from the shower to water my trees," Councilwoman Linn Strouse said. "That is what we did as kids. We were taught to conserve."

Crews working on repairing the well are expected to give the city an estimate of how much the repairs will cost after they reach the site of the break over the next couple of days, Hendrickson said.

*This story appeared in The Daily Herald on page A1.*

Article views: 209

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## **deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Wednesday, July 18, 2007

### **Eagle Mountain water conservation plan**

- Residential watering will be allowed twice a week for no more than 20 minutes
  - Schools and churches may water on Wednesday and Saturday between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.
  - Only Nolan Park will be watered on Sunday
  - Residents with new sod or hydroseed may water twice a day (maximum of 20 minutes per watering)
  - No outdoor water use for anything other than grass and landscaping
- 

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**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Wednesday, July 18, 2007

**Water loss rocks Eagle Mountain**

**By Jens Dana**  
Deseret Morning News

Upset Eagle Mountain residents expressed frustration over the city's broken water well Tuesday as the City Council issued a modified water conservation plan.

Eagle Mountain City Manager John Hendrickson said city well No. 2, which broke on Friday, won't be fixed for another two to four weeks. During that time, he recommends residents adhere to a schedule that limits the use of water.

The three main water wells in Eagle Mountain pump about 7.7 million gallons of water per day, Hendrickson said. The No. 2 line is the source of 40 percent of that capacity. If residents follow the plan, the city can rely on the other two pumps until the break is fixed.

"We feel that the schedule give us enough flexibility that we can refill the (water tank) each day," he said.

The water conservation plan, approved by the City Council, only allows residential watering twice a week for no more than 20 minutes per day. Residents in the City Center area will be allowed to water on Mondays and Thursdays between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.; residents in the Ranches area on Tuesday and Fridays between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. The conservation plan also bans outdoor water use for anything other than lawns and landscaping.

"Don't wash your car," Hendrickson said. "Take it to a car wash in Saratoga Springs."

More than 50 residents attended the council meeting, most concerned about the major mechanical failure in the water well. John Painter said the incident gives the appearance of poor management of "a major essential service to residents."

"This is the third year that water rationing has occurred," he said. "and some homes actually went completely without water."

Painter also said many residents feel city officials may be attempting to downplay a severe lack of planning and management.

Mayor Don Richardson said the city is actively working to expand the city's water system. A 600,000 gallon tank is under construction, and the city plans to expand another water line and plans to add a reuse line using sewer water to water the city parks.

"We're not sitting idly," he said. "We're working on it."

Repair crews are uncertain how well No. 2 broke, but Hendricks said he's sure the drive shaft snapped because there's no noticeable problem with the motor.

"The motor is fine," he said. "But there's no water coming out."

Blake Webb, city water foreman, said the well was designed to be lubricated by water.

"Other engineers have told us that's not a good thing to do," he said.

When water stopped lubricating the well's mechanical parts, the drive shaft snapped, he said. Webb didn't find out what happened until residents called him around 6 a.m., saying they had no water.

Councilwoman Linn Strouse said she hopes city officials learn from the incident she dubs Eagle Mountain's "first major crisis."



"If we're going to keep growing at the rate we're growing, I'm hoping this is going to be a wake-up call," she said.

Resident Brent Nielsen said he was assured there would be enough water when he moved to the new city. Now he's concerned the city is growing faster than what it can accommodate.

"Why are we exploding when we need to implode and take care of the people who are already here?" he asked.

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## **deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Tuesday, July 17, 2007

### **Eagle Mountain to revise watering restrictions**

**EAGLE MOUNTAIN** — Outdoor watering restrictions in Eagle Mountain continued Monday, but city officials said they hope to enact a revised watering schedule for the town by Wednesday.

A mechanical failure in one of the city's three wells prompted the emergency restrictions Friday afternoon, but city spokeswoman Linda Peterson says residents' cooperation has so far allowed the city not to impose restrictions on indoor water usage. Residents are encouraged to continue to be conservative in using water inside.

Although City Council members have not passed an ordinance to impose ticketing as a repercussion of violating the restriction, Peterson said the city's code enforcement officer has been patrolling neighborhoods to make sure the restriction is observed.

If residents are found to be using water outside, a warning will be given.

But if the same resident is found to be watering a second time, the water to the residence will be shut off and a \$100 fee will be required to turn the water back on, Peterson said.

Updates on the city's water situation can be found on the city's Web site, [www.eaglemountaincity.com](http://www.eaglemountaincity.com) or on the city's special hotline, 801-789-6660.

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## **deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Monday, July 16, 2007

### **Water-wise classes offered in W. Jordan**

The Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District's free water-wise gardening classes will be continued through September.

Classes are offered on most Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. They will be taught at 8215 S. 1300 West in West Jordan. Call 877-728-3420 to register.

A list of classes and the times they are offered can be found on the conservancy district's Web site: [www.conservationsgardenpark.org](http://www.conservationsgardenpark.org). Those interested in participating in the free courses should call 1-877-728-3420 to register.

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# The Salt Lake Tribune

<http://www.sltrib.com>

## Eagle Mountain battles well failure; water scarce

The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated:07/14/2007 01:22:04 AM MDT

A major mechanical failure at an Eagle Mountain well prompted officials to request residents stop watering their lawns.

The cause of the failure is yet to be determined, but repair personnel are assessing the failure and determining the time frame needed to repair damages.

Meanwhile, the city has shut down all watering of parks and open space, and is trying to spread the word to residents that they should begin conserving water immediately.

"The sooner people start conserving, the better," said Eagle Mountain spokeswoman Linda Peterson. "We're doing all we can to avoid an outage. Not watering the lawn is a sacrifice for a little bit, but it's not the worst-case scenario."

Peterson issued a statement Friday afternoon, saying Eagle Mountain is "working as quickly as possible to resolve the situation" and promised to keep residents updated on the status.

- Steve Gehrke

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## **deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Saturday, July 14, 2007

### **Broken water well inconveniences Eagle Mountain folk**

**By Jens Dana**  
Deseret Morning News

**EAGLE MOUNTAIN** — Eagle Mountain residents are being asked to stop any outside watering and limit indoor water use until crews can repair a broken water well.

Linda Petersen, the city spokeswoman, said Friday that crews reported a major mechanical failure in the city's well No. 2.

"We're not thrilled with the situation," she said, "but we're working on it."

City workers are assessing the time needed to make the repairs, Petersen said.

As of Friday night, city workers were unsure when the well would be repaired.

Meanwhile, Petersen said, the city has "shut down all watering of parks and open space."

"The city is working as quickly as possible to resolve the current situation and will keep residents updated," Petersen said.

Residents will be notified through Neighborhood Watch groups, signs, fliers and the media.

Eagle Mountain officials have been working to expand the city's water system to deal with breakdowns like the one that occurred Friday, as well as to keep up the demands of a growing city, said Mayor Don Richardson.

Last year, Eagle Mountain's population grew by 30 percent.

"We've experienced the same growth this year," he said. "We're the fourth-fastest-growing city in the state."

Richardson traveled to San Francisco last weekend to meet with several revenue bond agencies, including Standard & Poors, Fitch Ratings Inc. and Financial Securities Assurance, in an attempt to secure money to upgrade a water pump on the well No. 1 line.

Richardson said Eagle Mountain is also in the process of constructing a 600,000-gallon storage tank and upsizing of some distribution lines from one of the city's wells to a storage tank to compensate for any water system malfunctions like the one that occurred Friday.

"This will give us enough capacity and redundancy to keep up with the (city's) growth in case a well breaks down," he said.

City officials hope to have all these improvements completed within the next 12 months, Richardson said.

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## **deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Saturday, July 14, 2007

### **Finding beauty in a desert**

#### **Deseret Morning News editorial**

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. But many Utahns behold the trend toward xeriscaping (landscaping to preserve water) and see little to admire. Green grass says "fertility." Weather-resistant plants, gravel and cactus say "desolate."

Or so some people think.

The truth is, a desert landscape is its own brand of lovely. It is an acquired taste, of course. But those willing to adjust their point of view are pointing the state in the right direction.

The most recent bone of contention between the "lawn order" crowd and xeriscapers is an ordinance passed earlier this week by the Salt Lake City Council allowing the ground cover around homes to be 67 percent xeriscaped. Not everyone is pleased about that. The arid nature of xeriscaping says "withering" to some. But serious-minded citizens see the reality of the situation. Utahns live in a desert. And the annual droughts, scorching temperatures and the scramble for river and spring water by surrounding states has Utahns waking up to the fact that water — like gold — is precious here because the supply is limited.

Besides, xeriscaping doesn't have to say desolation. To the trained eye, it can be as lovely as a garden. In Kyoto, Japan, for instance, monks spend hours raking the sand and positioning boulders to create islands of serenity and meditation in the middle of the bustling city. With forethought and some help from those in the know, Utahns, too, can create landscapes that sooth rather than annoy. There are many Web sites, books and government brochures dedicated to helping homeowners find a way to enhance their properties with plants and features that won't drain natural resources.

As one publication points out, people "inherit" the kind of landscape where they live. People in Utah, for the most part, have inherited a "dry scene" — the literal translation of the word "xeriscape." When done right, xeriscaping can conserve water, reduce pest and disease problems, is low maintenance and can save valuable landfill space.

Those accustomed to seeing lawns and flower beds might not like the look, but with an open mind they can come to see the charm. A xeriscaped yard, after all, is simply "Utah" in microcosm.

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**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Sunday, July 15, 2007

## Lake Powell pipeline won't minimize drought deficit in southern Utah

By Bruce Wilson

**my  
view**

A healthy public debate is under way in Washington County concerning the proposed construction of a water delivery pipeline from Lake Powell to St. George. Given the nature of such a large-scale project — it will take several years to develop a viable engineering plan, obtain rights of way and solidify funding — this debate will be waged over a long period of time. Long enough for oft-repeated statements, whether true or not, to be transformed into misleading myths.

One such potential myth is already in the making. Advocates for the project, including state water officials and Washington County commissioners, have repeatedly claimed the pipeline is necessary to provide a redundant water source that would minimize the impact of drought and water shortages in southern Utah. It's a claim with great appeal in a region where many residents maintain redundant supplies of food and other necessities as insurance against either personal or public disasters. But such claims of redundancy for the pipeline are highly debatable. It's an almost certain conclusion that every drop of water from Lake Powell would be allocated to supply new homes, not as a backup or redundant water supply for current homes or businesses.

Why am I so certain? First, according to state officials, the pipeline would be financed almost entirely by impact fees assessed on new construction. Washington County officials would have an enormous incentive to encourage rapid growth to pay off the billion dollar debt that would be incurred. And second, we know from experience, local city and county officials in southern Utah already have a track record of encouraging growth.

Even though every drop from Lake Powell would be consumed by newcomers, you might think it's still a good idea to have another water source. Then, if local sources were low and Lake Powell wasn't — or vice versa — there would be another source to make up for the shortfall. That would ordinarily make sense, but not in the unique case of Lake Powell. Lake Powell is already a significant water source for several gargantuan metropolitan areas located far downstream: Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz. So if drought conditions arise in California, Arizona or Nevada, affected cities need to get more water from Lake Powell to make up the deficit. Thus any city that relies on Lake Powell is vulnerable to drought conditions not only in the Rocky Mountain region but throughout the entire Southwest, greatly enhancing the probability of drought-related water shortages.

There are constraints on how much water each region may take from Lake Powell, but if rationing becomes necessary, it's pretty obvious who would have priority. Washington County wouldn't garner much sympathy competing for sustenance with Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, Phoenix or Tucson. Besides the disparity in size and economic contribution, each of these cities is already dependent on Lake Powell and would undoubtedly expect, and likely be granted, priority because they got their buckets in the Lake Powell well first.

At that point, if Washington County had a bucket in Lake Powell that came up less than full, where would the water come from to support the 200,000-250,000 new residents brought in to pay for pipeline construction who then require a full Lake Powell bucket to meet their water needs?

I hope this risky pipeline project is defeated so our children and grandchildren are not put in the unenviable position of having to answer that difficult question.

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*Bruce Wilson lives in Washington County and is the author of "Disarming the Culture War."*

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AGENDA ITEM 11

CENTRAL IRON COUNTY  
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICTS  
TOUR BOOKLET

OF THE  
TOUR FOR THE

JULY 13, 2007  
DRINKING WATER BOARD MEETING





## TOUR BOOKLET





## MISSION STATEMENT

“The concern for water quality, conservation and efficient management is the chief responsibility of the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District. Established in 1997, the District carefully evaluates the existing future water supplies to maintain the highest possible level of purity for the District.”



## INTRODUCTION

Since the formation of the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District in 1997, we have made great strides in bringing together the available water in the area to promote a stabilized water system. Our work to upgrade faltering water systems, ensure adequate water is available where needed, and that the available water is of the highest quality has helped provide regional stabilization to the water supply.

In planning for the future water needs of the area, we have worked with various engineering firms to research feasibility options for additional means of providing water to the region. We understand the continued need for a reliable source of water and are committed to working from a solid knowledge base toward the regionalization of water to promote more stable, reliable sources.

We will continue to provide quality water and stable water systems to the region. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [rswilson@infowest.com](mailto:rswilson@infowest.com) or call (435) 865-9901.

Sincerely,

Scott Wilson  
Executive Director  
Central Iron County Water Conservancy District

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The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District is responsible to the needs of all water users within our boundaries. This includes all water users in the Cedar Valley and includes parts of other water basins—the lower Colorado basin, Escalante Basin and a small portion of the Parowan basin.

We recognize the importance of building a regional water infrastructure as the area evolves from agricultural to urban land uses. A comprehensive, regional water district that can provide regional management of the water basin under an overall ground water management plan is the key to positive community development, and proper management of this limited natural resource.

As chair of the board, I speak for the other board members in saying that our efforts today will shape the stability and reliability of water in the region for future generations.

Sincerely,

Eldon Schmutz  
Chairman  
Central Iron County Water Conservancy District



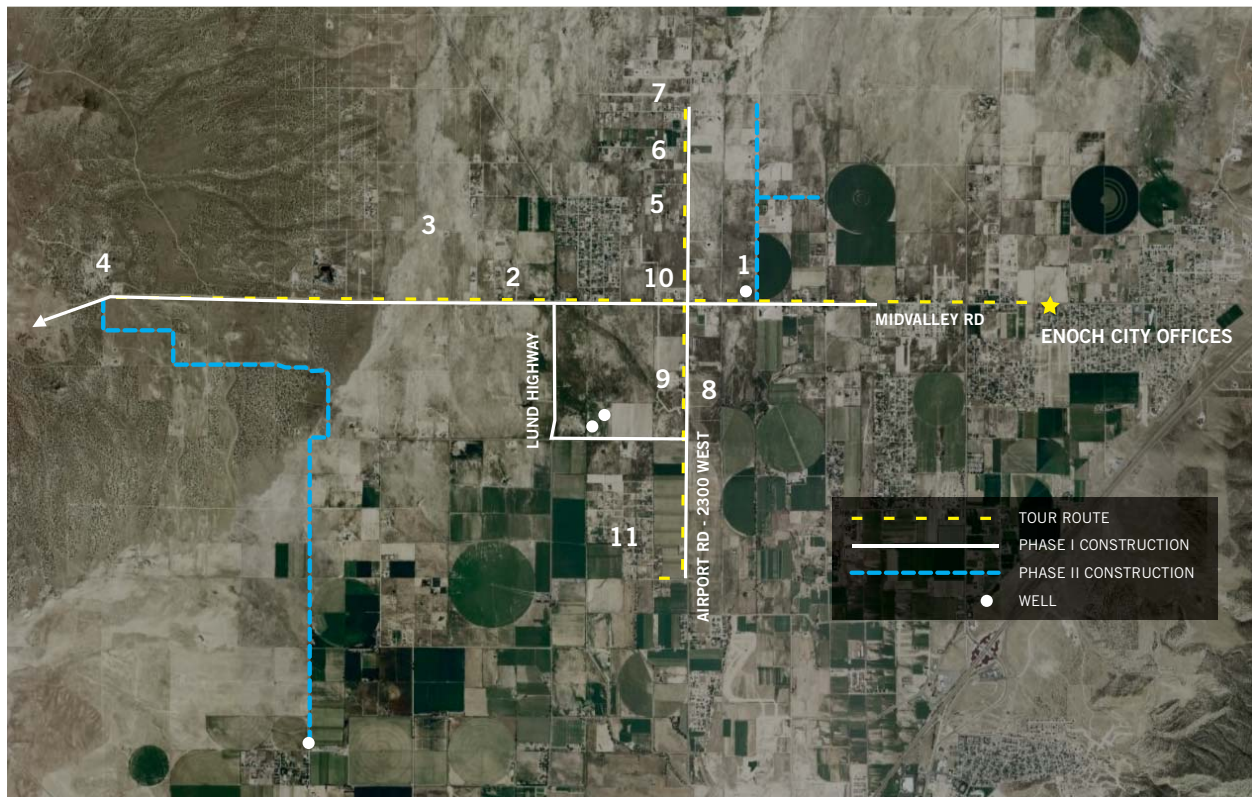
## CENTRAL IRON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

The District was organized May 1997 to conserve, develop and stabilize supplies of water within the proposed district, and to develop additional supplies of water for use both within municipal boundaries and the unincorporated areas of the District for the direct benefit of its residences. In addition, to plan for, finance and construct such reservoirs, pipelines, water distribution systems, wells, drainage improvements and other improvements necessary to utilize water supplies for the benefit of its residents. In addition, to benefit the municipalities within the District by providing adequate supplies of water for domestic, industrial and municipal use. Further, to benefit lands now under irrigation by managing and stabilizing the flow of water to lands.

Since May 1997, the District has operated to participate in several studies to better understand our limited water resources. First, to review and summarize an entire history of water reports that have previously been completed for the Cedar Valley Basin; second, to complete a comprehensive water model for the entire basin; third, two water conservation reports; and fourth, complete regional water planning.

The District issued their first water revenue bonds in November 2005 (Phase I). This phase provided an alternative to proliferation of independent water companies and also remedied the serious Fife Town water company problems.

### TOUR MAP



- 1. Eagle Valley Ranches
- 2. Sky View Subdivision
- 3. Cedar Valley Acres Subdivision
- 4. Three Peaks Recreation Center

- 5. Old Meadows Ranchos
- 6. Angus Water Company
- 7. Big Meadows Ranchos
- 8. Monarch Meadows

- 9. Sunrise Meadows
- 10. Rancho Bonita
- 11. Fife Town



## EAGLE VALLEY RANCHES



### **Brief history of the development**

- Development was done 20-30 years ago
- Small water company was formed to provide water
- Single source system with minimal requirements was scraped together
- Volunteer operator

### **Water challenges encountered**

- Volunteer operator who did not want to continue volunteering
- System did not meet state requirements
- There was a recent fire in the area and there wasn't a fire hydrant or fire flows

### **Solutions provided by CICWCD**

- Operation of system was taken over
- Replacement of entire system is planned with Phase II project
- Fire hydrants and fire flows will be provided
- Multiple well system
- Elevated storage is provided
- Lasting solution through regionalization



## SKY VIEW SUBDIVISION



### **Brief history of the development**

- System was created by a developer
- Less than 15 units were built in the subdivision
- Just flying under the Drinking Water radar
- Can not hook up any further users or they will be in violation

### **Water problems/challenges encountered**

- System is minimally functional
- Roof blew off the well house
- Tank leaks every winter
- Do not own water rights
- One family is paying the power bill and can not collect from other users
- Needs significant help

### **Solutions provided by the District**

- We haven't solved anything yet
- We need help to solve their problems
- Replace their system and connect to ours
- Developers in the area want to help



# CEDAR VALLEY ACRES SUBDIVISION



## Brief History of the development

- Subdivision of 1,600-2,000 lots done in the early 1970s

## Water problems/challenges encountered

- Lots were subdivided with no improvements
- Most lots do not have water rights
- Septic tanks in that quantity are a major concern
- Lack of water system is causing individual lot owners to drill wells in poor hydro geologic area
- Health and safety issues are significant

## Solutions provided by the District

- We haven't solved anything yet
- The District is planning to solve this problem in conjunction with developers and individual home owners and working closely with the County
- Major sewer trunk line to Cedar City plant traverses the subdivision
- This is going to require private and government help to solve this problem



## THREE PEAKS RECREATION CENTER



### **Brief history of the development**

- BLM and Iron County wanted a water system
- The District needed a tank location

### **Water problems/challenges encountered**

- Iron County drilled a 900' well and pumped next to nothing
- Recreators need a water system

### **Solutions provided by CICWCD**

- Water system to service recreation needs



## OLD MEADOWS RANCHOS



### Brief history of the development

- Development was done 20-30 years ago
- Small water company was formed to provide water
- Single source system with minimal requirements was scraped together

### Water problems/challenges encountered

- System is operated by a volunteer
- System does not meet current state standards
- Members of the subdivision complain of insufficient pressure to utilize water
- System upgrades have not occurred
- Currently working towards funding to reconstruct the well house
- Well house upgrades will not provide fire flows

### Solutions provided by CICWCD

- The District has offered to provide a solution similar to what is being provided to Eagle Valley Ranches



## ANGUS WATER COMPANY



### **Brief history of the development**

- Similar to previous older subdivisions

### **Water problems/challenges encountered**

- Sole source well and/or tank filled with sand
- 48 Residents were without water for 2-3 days
- System was in a condition similar to other older systems

### **Solutions provided by CICWCD**

- The District connected to their system on a Saturday afternoon
- Residents had water within hours of contacting the District.
- The District and Angus water company are working out how to assume their drinking water system



## BIG MEADOWS RANCHOS



### **Brief history of the development**

- Subdivision platted years ago
- Initially was part of Angus Water Company

### **Water problems/challenges encountered**

- Could not have been serviced by Angus Water Company
- Could have built their own system
- Didn't believe it was the correct solution

### **Solutions provided by the District**

- Developer built internal system
- By economies of scale, system costs were saved
- The District provided a regional solution



## MONARCH MEADOWS / SUNRISE MEADOWS / RANCHO BONITA



### **Brief history of the development**

- New subdivisions in Iron County

### **Water problems/challenges encountered**

- Could have built their own system
- Developers chose to cooperate with the District to provide a more long-term and robust system
- Costs favored connecting to regional solution
- Eliminated redundant costs of tanks/wells/pumping systems
- Didn't believe an independent water system was the correct solution

### **Solutions provided by the District**

- Developer built an internal system
- By economies of scale, system costs were saved
- The District provided a regional solution



## FIFE TOWN SYSTEM



### Brief history of the development

- System was built years ago
- Volunteer operator

### Water problems/challenges encountered

- Pipe sizing inadequate
- No money for upgrades/did not have the political structure to solve the problem
- Water rights oddly dispersed
- System problems caused many to drill private wells
- EPA Administrative Order including daily penalties up to \$32,500
- Worst drinking water system in the state
- County Commission asked the District to help

### Solutions provided by the District

- Could have done a small band-aid solution, but the District proposed a regional solution
- Funding was difficult with a small user base
- Leveraged new developments in the area to fund the regional solution
- Funding agencies (Drinking Water Board & USDA Rural development) assisted in providing long-term regional water solution in this area
- Upgraded system including fire flows, improved water quality and larger pipe diameters were provided for better pressure



## “REGIONALIZATION FOR STABILIZATION”

- Iron County has established regulations to give the District first right of refusal on any subdivision in the District boundaries to provide water
- Long term water planning between communities in our District to regionalize and stabilize the water supply throughout the District boundaries
- Establishing regional water solutions to assist both independent water companies and municipalities in meeting regional water challenges
- Partnering with independent systems to provide water source redundancy, storage and fire flows
- Providing regional water system standards for all new systems in the County

### **Scott Wilson**

Executive Director  
Central Iron County Water Conservancy District  
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### **Board members**

Eldon Schmutz - Chairman  
Leon Hyatt – Secretary/Treasurer  
Sheridan Hansen  
Ron Chandler  
Roy Urie  
Rick Bonzo  
Brent Hunter

### **Staff members**

Rod Mills – District Engineer  
Lella Pehrson – Administrative Assistant  
Ray Ross – Certified Operator





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